

JP 11/10/150



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,699

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 1998

\*\*\*\* 45p

26-PAGE NEWS SECTION

40-PAGE LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT

26-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

Super League  
supremo tells all

7 PAGES OF SPORT

INSIDE: THE ONLY  
OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE  
TO UNIVERSITY PLACES

Murder  
most foreign

ARTS, COMMENT, FASHION & FINANCE

## Tycoon puts up fortune to halt euro

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

A MULTI-MILLION pound campaign against Britain's entry to the European single currency is to be launched by Paul Sykes, the millionaire Euro-sceptic businessman.

Mr Sykes has vowed to "use every means possible" in a one-man crusade to persuade the public to vote "No" in a referendum on the euro.

The former Tory parliamentary candidate, who is worth some £250m pounds, will mastermind a nationwide publicity blitz that is likely to dwarf any positive propaganda for the single currency.

Taking on the mantle left behind by the late Sir James Goldsmith and his now defunct Referendum Party, Mr Sykes will use newspapers, posters and the Internet to warn of the dangers of monetary union. To get around broadcasting restrictions he plans to send campaign videos to key groups and individuals.

The campaign will begin on 1 January next year, the start date for the single currency across Europe, and will last "as long as it takes".

With the Government committed to a referendum in the next Parliament if it decides to join European monetary union, the Sykes campaign could stretch for at least four years, costing millions, although he declines to give a specific figure.

The campaign is reportedly being planned with "military precision" and was sparked by polls commissioned by Mr Sykes that found that 93 per cent of the British public wanted more information about the euro.

Echoing the presidential campaign in the United States of the billionaire Ross Perot, Mr



Sykes: One-man crusade

Sykes will use his personal fortune to fund the campaign and has prepared a network of supporters across the country to spread the message.

"I'm going to do everything I can to stop this and I will raise hellfire to get the message across. I owe that to the British people. There is no point in being a rich man if you've lost your nation," he told *The Independent*.

Mr Sykes will detail his plans next month to guarantee maximum impact ahead of all the party conferences.

He is understood to have senior economists from every one of the 15 European Union nations line up to argue the case against the euro, as well as MEPs from the Continent who admit that its adoption will mean a federal, United States of Europe.

Other big American names are also part of the Sykes team. Mr Sykes denied that he was funding independent candidates to stand against Tory candidates in next year's European elections, and claimed that the single currency issue was much more important to him.

"There never has been a country that doesn't have its

own currency. I believe the time has come for the British people to be made aware of the disaster that the euro would be," he said.

"We are all geared up to go live on January 1, when we will press the button and the campaign will start. We're going to use every means possible to get our message across. We will use the media, the Internet, everything."

"I want to make clear that we are not a party. We will be looking to spread information, factual information that we believe the people have a right to know."

The tycoon said that he had given up on party politics, but was determined to ensure that every voter knew the implications of joining the single currency. "I'm still a Conservative, but the Conservative Party is no longer a Conservative party," he said.

"This is about telling the man in the street what is going on. The only vote that the people have got is in this referendum. You are either for it or against it, it's as simple as that."

"We are all worried about losing British jobs, but with the euro you are in for dynamite. Miners in Barnsley and steelworkers in Sheffield can't be expected to up sticks and move to Spain."

"But that's what the single currency is all about. I have got to oppose this ever-creeching federalism."

Government sources have suggested that there may have to be limits on spending on "Yes" or "No" campaigns ahead of a referendum.

However, Mr Sykes said: "If they limit the amount one individual can spend, we will have lots of individuals involved. The message will get through."



Tony Blair shakes hands with the people of Omagh who lined the route of his walkabout in the Co Tyrone town yesterday

Pacemaker

## 'Draconian' law targets Real IRA

TONY BLAIR yesterday visited Omagh to convey his condolences to the stricken town and to announce far-reaching new legal measures which the Government hopes will put paid to the bombers of the Real IRA.

Parliament is to be recalled on Wednesday and Thursday of next week - coinciding with the already announced recall of the Dail in Dublin - to rush the new legislation through.

Echoing the Irish prime minister, he described the changes as being of a "draconian and fundamental nature".

The key measure in the Government's package will allow a senior police officer to testify that he believes a defendant is a member of a proscribed or

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

organisation - particularly the Real IRA, whose bomb claimed 28 lives in Omagh earlier this month. A suspect's silence will be cited as corroborating evidence against him.

The prime minister's visit to Omagh was a muted affair in a rain-swept town which is only beginning on the road towards recovery. Although many businesses have reopened following the bombing, many remain badly damaged.

Mr Blair appeared emotionally moved after speaking to local people, who included doctors and nurses and civic and business leaders. He visited

several premises, including an Oxfam shop where people were killed by the blast.

He said: "There is a clear need, now that it is plain that we are dealing with this small wholly unsupported, wholly unrepresentative group of extremists, to tighten our law in relation to what is needed to secure a conviction for membership of a proscribed terrorist organisation." The British and Irish governments had the determination to take whatever measures they could to bring those responsible to justice.

The two governments clearly hope that the new measures will go further than previous laws and allow police to round up known members of the Real

IRA and put them behind bars within weeks or months. Since most of the group's members are thought to live south of the border it could be that Gardaí in the Republic may bring most of membership charges.

Opposition parties in both Britain and the Republic have pledged their support for the measures. The recall of Westminster will cause some administrative upheaval, especially since the Commons chamber is presently littered with scaffolding. Workmen have been removing asbestos from the space above the chamber.

The new measures are expected to pass through the Commons next Wednesday and the Lords on Thursday.

Mr Blair said proposals on the admissibility of evidence, some suggested in the last 24 hours by Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan, were still being discussed with Government law officers and others. Even before Mr Blair gave details of the measure they were condemned by Sinn Féin chief negotiator Martin McGuinness as "a massive over-reaction."

In Dundalk, meanwhile, the discovery of more than 40 dumped cassette-type firebombs was seen as the latest in a series of signs that panic might be spreading within the ranks of the Real IRA.

Leading article, Review, page 3

## Medical students told bedside manners matter

BRITAIN'S UNIVERSITIES are to be told to change the way they select medical students to put less emphasis on A level grades and more on bedside manner. The Council of Deans of Medical Schools is to issue a policy statement next month urging them to broaden their selection criteria beyond academic achievement to ensure that they produce committed doctors with the human touch for the new millennium.

Criticism that medical schools are turning out doctors who may be brilliant scientists

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

but lack the intuitive ear and interpersonal skills essential to good medicine has stung the council into action.

It has commissioned a study of the selection criteria used for all applicants to medical school in 1997, the first to be carried out, which is expected to show that A level grades are far and away the single most important factor when it is published next month.

It has also been alarmed by

evidence that medical schools discriminate against applicants from ethnic minorities.

Although they account for more than a quarter of students in some medical schools, because of the high numbers who apply, it is harder for them to get a place than for white applicants.

Professor Stephen Tomlinson, dean of Manchester University medical school and secretary of the council of deans, said: "People are beginning to feel uncomfortable about the weighting put on A level grades.



There must be outstanding doctors who don't get four As. But A level grades are the only tried and tested criterion we have."

In 1997, the average A level score of successful applicants was better than two As and a B. Some medical schools had tried psychometric testing, but found the results disappointing.

## Zimbabwe aircraft bomb rebels as central African war intensifies

ANGOLAN and Zimbabwean aircraft yesterday bombed rebel positions in the Democratic Republic of Congo as President Laurent Kabila returned to the capital, vowing to strike back against the insurgents.

His motorcade - a caravan of black limousines flanked by pick-up trucks filled with commandos - zipped through Kinshasa's rutted streets past cheering and waving crowds.

His return after a week's absence, forced on him when rebels threatened to march into Kinshasa, came as the al-

BY IAN STEWART  
in Kinshasa

lied planes from Angola and Zimbabwe attacked two major towns held by the rebels, who are backed by Uganda and Rwanda. Rebel officials said the aircraft bombed Kisangani, in eastern Congo, and Kasungulu, 30km from Kinshasa.

A rebel said the planes had bombed civilian targets in Kisangani. "They cannot recapture Kisangani, only bomb it from the air," he said. "This is terrorism."

A string of victories by Congolese soldiers and their Angolan allies in the western corridor that stretches from Kinshasa to the Atlantic Ocean have put the rebels on the defensive. The government said that in the wake of these gains it is planning on moving into rebel areas in the east.

As the fighting threatened to shift towards the border with Rwanda, Catholic officials in Rome said that Tutsi rebels in eastern Congo had attacked a mission crowded with refugees, killing 37 people. They

allegedly attacked because they suspected that local people were giving food to a pro-government militia. All the dead were Congolese.

In western Congo, Angolan forces fighting on behalf of Mr Kabila have recaptured towns the rebels had taken, reportedly including the Congo River port of Matadi, though rebel officials deny the town has fallen.

The rebels in the west are trapped between Angolan forces and Zimbabwean troops defending Kinshasa's southern outskirts.

INSIDE  
FULL CONTENTS  
PAGE 2  
TODAY'S TV  
REVIEW, PAGE 26

HOME  
A surgeon is to be investigated for his role in allegedly bungled operations

PAGE 2

HOME  
Police officers will act as supergrasses to inform on colleagues at Scotland Yard

PAGE 3

HOME  
Recruitment to secondary school teaching is plummeting

PAGE 6

FOREIGN  
Nigeria is to hold Presidential elections next February in a move to civilian rule

PAGE 11

FOREIGN  
Communists may be given cabinet seats in Russia's new coalition government

PAGE 13

BUSINESS  
Goldman Sachs is to adapt a tough poison-pill defence against potential predators

PAGE 15

SPORT  
Alec Stewart is England cricket captain for the Ashes tour and the 1999 World Cup

PAGE 24



## We eat, sleep and breathe mortgages, so you don't have to.

0800 100 800

ABBAY NATIONAL  
Because life's complicated enough.

www.abbeynational.co.uk

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

To assist us in improving our services, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on the property and in the case of an endowment mortgage, an endowment policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to status and valuation and not available to persons under 18 years of age. To arrange your mortgage over the phone, some documentation requiring your signature will be sent to you and you will normally be required to visit your Solicitor/Licensed Conveyancer's office. Written quotations are available on request. Abbey National plc, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, only sells its own life assurance, pension and unit trust products. Abbey National and the Abbey National logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London W1P 8AT. United Kingdom.







JP 11/150

Boy, 13,  
raped  
in store  
toilets

THE INDEPENDENT  
Wednesday 26 August 1998

HOME NEWS/3

# Pizza man swallows The Ivy as top restaurant chains grow ever fatter

BY KATHY MARES

IT'S ALL becoming quite exhausting. You've just got to know the *maitre d'* at one fashionable restaurant when another one opens its doors across town. Nowadays, it's impossible to be seen in all the right places.

The people to blame for this infuriating social whirl are the latter-day Julius Caesars colonising vast swathes of our city centres. Not content with owning one or two sites, they are in the process of building vast culinary empires.

Yesterday, the process took a step further when one of these new sovereigns of the culinary world, Belgo, announced the acquisition for £13.4m of a group that includes The Ivy and Le Caprice, two London eating institutions.

The Belgo chain itself, run by Andy Bassadone and Luke Johnson, the latter being the man who helped build up the Pizza Express group, has further plans for expansion.

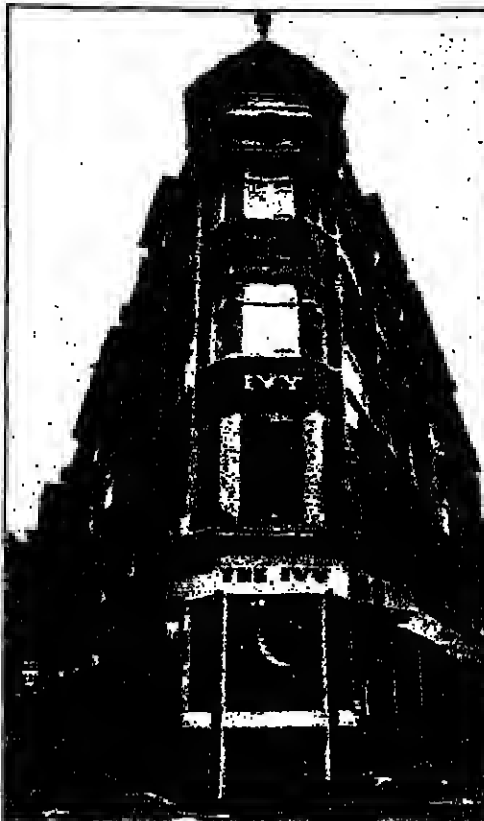
Once upon a time, restaurant chains meant Pizza Hut or Burger King. But the past few years have witnessed the emergence of a new phenomenon, the upmarket brand, as epitomised by Sir Terence Conran's ever-expanding group.

What fuels the apparently boundless ambitions of the restaurant barons like Conran and Johnson is an insatiable appetite on the part of the dining public for modern, stylish eating places where the image (trendy) and the decor (minimalist) are at least as important as the food (usually southern Mediterranean).

Michael Gottlieb, president of the Restaurateurs Association of Great Britain, associates this development with the end of the recession.

"People not only wanted to spend money; they wanted to be seen to spend money," he said. "They wanted to be seen in the right restaurant at the right time."

Other key players, such as Marco Pierre White and Jean-Christophe Novelli, are chefs first and businessmen second,



The Belgo group, controlled by Luke Johnson (right), formerly of Pizza Express, has made a £13.4m takeover of The Ivy (left and centre)

Harriet Logan/Networks

but none the less successful for that. Novelli has gone from nothing to six restaurants in less than three years. Marco marches relentlessly on, invading Leeds, Bath and Oxford with his MPW brand.

It was Conran, though, who first made people aware of the fashionability of eating out. So, take one good idea and replicate it *ad infinitum*? Not so, sniffs a spokeswoman for Conran, who owns a raft of "in" places, including Bluebird in Chelsea, west London.

"We're not a chain, and we're not a multiple," she said. "All of our restaurants are completely unique."

Not everyone agrees. Fay Maschler, the veteran restaurant critic, ruffled feathers last year when she criticised the Conranisation of the trade. His restaurants, she said, fostered "a noisy anonymity" that was a million miles from the intimacy of small, cosy places.

Mr Gottlieb, himself an in-

dependent operator, echoes that sentiment, and says that he detects the first stirrings of a backlash. "I sense that people are starting to yearn for the type of personal service that you don't get in these places," he said.

Mark Hayes, editor of *Hotel and Restaurant* magazine, believes that the attraction of the upmarket chains lies in their predictability. "It's a guarantee of quality: it's a restaurant with a track record," he says. "With a name like Marco Pierre White, you are assured of decent food."

The name is important. Take Nico Ladenis, the chef who sold his two establishments, Chez Nico and Simply Nico, a couple of years ago. The new owners, the Restaurant Partnership, are rolling out a chain of Nico restaurants around the country.

Mr Bassadone identifies a social evolution behind the boom. "Ten years ago, people

in their twenties who wanted to go out would go down the pub. Now they eat out. It has become an acceptable way to spend your leisure time and money. It's no longer about special occasions. It's about a way of life."

How far, though, can you stretch quality? Some critics believe that exclusivity is still a potent draw. Diners who patronise a Marco restaurant may not realise that their meals have not been cooked by the *enfant terrible* himself. The association is second-hand; the cooks will have been trained by Marco in his style of cuisine.

There is already one cautionary tale to be told. It concerns Paul Heathcote's eponymous restaurant, in Preston, Lancashire, once the highest-rated place in the north. It has lost one of his two Michelin stars, and the general consensus is that Mr Heathcote spread himself too thinly when he opened further restaurants.

## THE OTHER NEW BARONS OF DESIGNER DINING

	Sir Terence Conran	Marco Pierre White	Oliver Peyton	Tony Allan
Top eateries	Mezzo, Bluebird, Le Pont de la Tour, Quaglin's	Mirabelle, Criterion, MPW	MASH, Mash and Air, Atlantic Bar and Grill, Coast	Bank Fish brasserie planned
Covers per week	50,000	8,500	7,500	3,500
Annual turnover	£70m	£25m	£22m	£8m
Style of restaurants	Minimalist, open, airy, lots of chrome	Affordable glamour or classical excellence	Avant garde, contemporary, arty	Very bright and colourful, modern

## Paper prints false results but betting fraud fails

BY GREG WOOD

THE METROPOLITAN Police and senior staff at the *Racing Post* were yesterday trying to work out how - and by whom - the results of four greyhound races were deliberately altered before they appeared in Monday's edition of the newspaper.

The changes were part of an attempted betting fraud that might have earned as much as £50,000 for those involved, and though it was only partially successful, at least one betting shop manager has learnt the hard way that you should not believe everything you read in the papers.

The four races involved took place at Reading and Yarmouth, two of the country's smallest greyhound tracks, on Saturday night. The correct results were transmitted to the *Racing Post* by the Press Association on Sunday morning. When they appeared in the following day's edition, however, the names of three of the winners had been changed. The starting price of a fourth, a hot favourite at 11-10, had been altered to a far more rewarding 3-1.

Since the closure of the *Sporting Life* on 12 May, the *Racing Post* is the only readily available source of information from the more obscure corners of the betting world.

HOW THE RESULTS APPEARED:				
Reading				
Off at: Winner and odds	[1st&2nd] Forecast	Time		
7.35 Woodford Ash 3/1	[2&3] £8.69	29.96		
7.51 Kyles Mystery 2/1F	[6&2] £11.46	29.51		
8.07 Room For Cally 6/4	[5&6] £6.96	29.06		
8.22 Mid West Rose 2/1	[5&3] £12.48	17.16		
8.37 Master Pride 6/4F	[5&1] £16.84	28.85		
8.53 Hedder Hunter 5/2	[1&3] £13.10	28.90		
9.06 Kilsquinn 7/1	[2&3] £27.89	28.93		
9.23 Hidesway Point 6/4F	[4&2] £5.20	28.99		
9.39 Jet 4/1	[4&1] £12.48	28.79		
9.54 Lisnakhil Roy 3/1F	[1&2] £7.83	28.90		
10.10 Staplers Amber 5/4F	[5&2] £3.48	42.84		
10.25 Dynamite Tina 5/1	[5&6] £14.37	28.90		
10.40 Lift The Wings 6/1	[5&6] £11.05	29.15		
HOW THEY SHOULD HAVE APPEARED:				
9.06 Brothers Beech 6/1	[4&5] £27.80	29.14	9.12 Granddaddy 11/10F	[4&1] £6.18 29.33
9.54 Lisnakhil Roy 11/10F	[1&2] £7.83	28.90	9.29 Decoy Elm 9/2	[3&6] £33.18 28.85

major bookmakers' trade organisation, had been alerted, and a warning was issued that bookies should suspend payments on bets involving the races. The *Racing Post* informed the Metropolitan Police of the situation, and an investigation began into possible deception.

A number of the hopeful punters were told that insufficient funds were available to pay them and asked to return later. None of them did.

Payment of all bets would have cost the Tote about £20,000 and Jennings, an Essex betting shop chain, £18,000. A William Hill outlet paid £200 on one bet before payments were suspended, while Coral handed over a similar amount, but the biggest loser appears to have

been the Ted Hornby betting shop in Withernsea, near Hull.

A £10 treble, apparently due a return of exactly £2,000 at odds of 199-1, was paid out at the shop on Monday morning. "The bet itself wasn't unusual," Janet Alexander, the manager, said yesterday. "What was unusual was that the three dogs copped at such big prices, but there was no reason to think there was anything untoward."

"How on earth anyone has managed to come as far as Withernsea with a scam like this is incredible. We're the last thing here before you fall into the North Sea."

The police inquiry will start in the Post's offices, but such is the integration of the computer systems of all the newspapers based in Canary Wharf

tower in Docklands, east London - including *The Independent* - that it may be that anyone on one of several floors could have altered the relevant files on Saturday evening.

Both the Post and the Police, however, will be hoping that their investigation does not take the same path as that which followed a similar case - the Trodmore Hunt coup - which took place exactly 100 years ago this month.

OFF ELECTRICITY BILLS  
WITH BRITISH GAS

\*Based on taking gas as well as electricity (single rate credit meter) from us and comparing our national average monthly direct debit price with the average of the local monthly direct debit tariffs of each local electricity supplier as at 1st July 1998. Based on an annual consumption of 3,500kWh.

**British Gas**  
Home Energy



# SNP surge forces Blair to fly north

TONY BLAIR will visit Scotland tomorrow to face growing fears that his hold on power in Labour's Scottish heartland and his party's strategy for devolution are in danger of being wrecked by the SNP.

Amid growing panic at a six-point lead by the SNP, Labour leaders plan to relaunch their campaign for the Scottish Parliament in a fortnight with a "vision statement" attacking SNP support for independence.

By COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

The party's spin doctors, *The Independent* has learned, are also planning to move campaign headquarters out of Keir Hardie House in Glasgow, a Victorian town house where the party has been located for more than a decade, into a new open-plan office, possibly in Edinburgh where the Parliament and the other parties are based.

Derek Draper, the former Labour "insider" and sacked lobbyist, said Labour party workers fear that a defeat in Scotland - Labour's heartland - will have reverberations on the party in England, undermining Mr Blair's reputation as a winner. The Tories have warned that devolution would unravel the union, but it could first unravel Labour's hold on power north of the border.

The decision to move the

campaign control centre reflects the increasing mood of anxiety in the party at the failure of the summer offensive against the SNP to neutralise its lead over Labour.

Matthew Taylor, assistant general secretary of the Labour Party in London, will spearhead strategy in Scotland. He told party workers communication was impossible on four floors at Keir Hardie House.

Mr Blair will hold a question-

and-answer session before joining the Queen in Balmoral for the weekend - the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar will unveil the first stage in the fight back against the SNP on 11 September, 12 months after the referendum on Scottish devolution - with a "vision statement" attacking the SNP's focus on the break with the Union.

A Labour Source said: "It will not be a manifesto. It is broader than that. It will attempt to engage in policy on local government, land reform, education, and what we want to do is create a bigger debate over the Autumn... the Scottish Parliament must not become a new elite just in Edinburgh."

SNP leader, Alex Salmond, has dismissed as a flop Labour's "summer of scrutiny". Helen Liddell, the former

Treasury minister promoted by Mr Blair to Mr Dewar's side to beef up the Scottish campaign, began the summer offensive with an attack on the SNP over an alleged 15p tax hike, but that quickly faded.

Labour claims the offensive is working, with the SNP's earlier lead of 14 per cent being cut back in a poll last week to six points, with the SNP on 44 and Labour on 38. However, the SNP source said: "We never ex-

pected to keep a lead of 14 per cent that was never realistic."

The Scottish National Party deputy leader, Dr Allan Macartney, has died following a heart attack yesterday at his home in Aberdeen.

Dr Macartney, who was 57, represented North East Scotland in the European Parliament since 1994. He was also a distinguished academic.

Leading article, Review, page 3

## Tory shadow who stayed in the sun

WITH THE chink of gin and tonic in the background, and the sun setting on the Aegean, Andrew Mackay last night packed his bags for his return to Westminster.

Like scores of other MPs, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland is returning today to prepare for next week's special Commons debate on the anti-terror measures after the tragedy of the Omagh bombing.

He has spent the past fortnight with his wife, Julie Kirkbride, who is also a Tory MP, on the remote Greek island of Syros where Tony Banks, the sports minister, was also spending his annual holiday. They were facing an arduous journey home. The ferry from the small island was due to leave at 3.30am today for Rhodes to catch a 9am flight to Athens, and an afternoon connection to Heathrow.

In spite of being thousands of miles from the events in Ulster, Mr Mackay has kept in touch by telephone from the 15-bed Alidi Hotel. He was briefed by government officials in advance about the Prime Minister's recall of Parliament with the measures to be rushed through. On Friday he will visit Omagh.

"I think the last thing people

By COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

want in Northern Ireland when there has been a bombing is to be gawped at. I didn't want to go until the funerals were over," Mr Mackay said.

He was criticised for being on holiday in Namibia when the Good Friday peace agreement was signed, but his absence during the aftermath of the Omagh bombing was stoutly defended yesterday by Michael Ancram, the deputy Tory party chairman.

Mr Mackay told *The Independent* from his hotel: "Mo Mowlam and Tony Blair briefly broke their holidays to go to Ireland because they have executive responsibility and needed to carry out various tasks... the last thing that one wants is to play politics with 28 dead."

It is unlikely that MPs or ministers - such as John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was duty minister for most of August - will be told to break their holidays.

The Tories are not planning to vote against the short Bill, and the Government will be able to marshal its massive majority in the Commons if there are unexpected problems in the Lords.



The House of Commons yesterday, where workers have been removing asbestos from a loft above its ceiling. The Speaker of the House has accepted a request for the early recall of Parliament to strengthen anti-terror laws in the wake of the Omagh bombing. Neil Munns/PA

## London assembly will have 25 seats

By PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT'S plans to revolutionise London politics were revealed in detail yesterday when a blueprint was unveiled for the new strategic authority for the capital.

The Local Government Commission announced that the proposed Greater London Authority would carve the city into 14 "mega-constituencies", each with 350,000 voters.

The authority, which will act as a check on the powers of the directly-elected mayor, will be made up of 25 members in total, with one representative for each voting area and 11 more taken proportionally from a "top-up" list.

Elections to the GLA are expected to take place in the Spring of 2000 and will coincide with the separate contest for the mayor for London.

The Government insists that the new body will not be a "son-of-GLC", but it will have powers over planning, the environment, transport and even policing in the capital.

It will also be able to query the mayor's appointments and his budget.

Each of the members for the 14 constituencies will be elected under the traditional first-past-the-post system.

The extra 11 will come from lists and will be made up proportionally to reflect the support of each of the parties.

The blueprint links boroughs together in a strategic way, linking areas such as Camden and Barnet, Greenwich and Lewisham and Hounslow with Richmond and Kingston.

Local Government Commission chairman Professor Malcolm Grant called for the public to respond actively to the proposals for each voting area.

"Londoners voted to create a new strategic authority for the capital. The Greater London Assembly will have a key role to play in its governance. I hope as many people as possible will make their views known to the commission," he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions said: "This is a draft report for further consultation. We look forward to the final recommendations in the autumn."

The final date for representations to the Commission is 13 October and a finished plan will be published in November.

## Braille change angers blind readers

A "CAMPAIGN for Real Braille" has been set up after plans to introduce capital letters into the Braille alphabet have split the blind community.

The Braille Authority of the United Kingdom (BAUK) has announced that by 2000 it is introducing capital letters into a code which has previously only used lower-case characters.

Supporters say that it is necessary because of the increasing use of capitals as abbreviations, as well as their use in e-mail addresses. It will also bring the UK in line with other English-speaking countries.

But opponents, such as Sara Morgan, the 25-year-old founder of the campaign, argue it will push up costs and make books more cumbersome. "There aren't many industries where they actively make costs go up," she said. "What I think

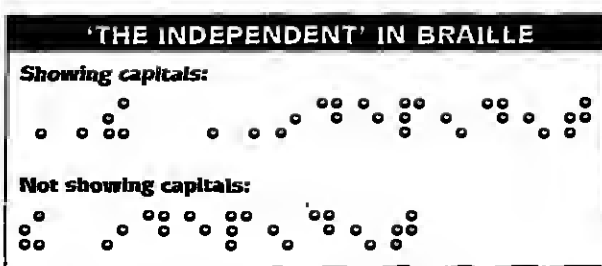
By GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

is particularly ironic, though, is the fact this is going to come in at the same time as the Disability Discrimination Act. So, just as we're asking restaurants to provide Braille menus we're making it more expensive to do so."

Braille, devised by Louis Braille in the 19th century is based upon a system of six raised dots arranged to represent each character in the alphabet and several short-form words. Around 12,000 people use Braille in this country.

BAUK said that it took the decision to go ahead with plans to introduce capitals after a questionnaire completed by 1,200 Braille readers showed that a majority was in favour of change.

The secretary of BAUK,



Stephen Phippen, said: "The reason the decision was made was on the basis of the questionnaire, answered by individual members, not on what BAUK thought."

Overall 46 per cent of people were in favour of introducing a capital letter sign wherever a capital letter appears in print and just under 30 per cent were against. Among the respondents classing themselves as visually impaired (those who have some ability to read by

sight) it was more popular compared to those who can read Braille only by touch.

Ms Morgan said the figures showed "there wasn't even a majority". But Mr Phippen said: "Those in favour were more or less 50 per cent. Those against were roughly half that. So twice as many people are in favour as against."

A spokesman for the National Library for the Blind said a survey done by it in 1994/5 found readers were not

in favour. The results of the BAUK survey however convinced them, and a spokesman said they would implement the change. "We recognise there are advantages and disadvantages and we shall be working with our readers to help them understand how this symbol will operate," he said.

The introduction of capital letters is projected to take place by the end of 1999.

"There are pros and cons," admits Mr Phippen. "But it should be noted that we are the only English speaking country which has not yet introduced capital letters and of all the other countries which have not one has regretted it and tried to move back."

However Ms Morgan added: "We are determined to fight it all the way. They have got to stop trampling over people's rights."

## IN BRIEF

### Open verdict on death of toddler

AN OPEN verdict was recorded today on the death of a toddler whose body was found on an isolated railway line. Dochester coroner Stanley Hooper said it was unlikely Louis had died accidentally, but the burden of proof was not sufficient to prove it was deliberate.

### Batteries too highly charged

HIGH STREET chains are netting a 220 per cent mark-up on batteries, a survey revealed. Research by *Computeractive* magazine found that a pack of four Duracell AA batteries, for instance, cost £3.99 at Dixons, £3.79 at Boots and £3.75 at Superdrug compared to £1.99 on a market stall.

### Fresh hopes in Essex fire strike

FRESH TALKS are being arranged in a bid to find a breakthrough to the three-month-long Essex firefighters' dispute. Leaders of the Fire Brigades Union met brigade officers yesterday and said they were hopeful of serious negotiation.

### Marriage to Gazza 'a health risk'

PAUL GASCOIGNE'S wife, Sheryl, told a judge in a statement that marriage to the football player had damaged her health. Sheryl, 33, who was beaten by Gascoigne four months after they married, was granted a "quickie" divorce in London. Neither was present for the hearing.

# BEFORE CHECKING OUT FOR YOUR BANK HOLIDAY, CHECK IN AT ESSO

**FREE\*** BUY A 4 LITRE PACK OF ESSO ULTRON, ESSO ULTRA OR ESSO ULTRA DIESEL, AND YOU CAN PICK UP A 750ML CLEAN GLASS TRIGGER PAK FREE!

☒ CHECK OIL

☒ TOP UP WITH ESSO ULTRON

☒ CHECK TYRE PRESSURE

☒ CHECK WATER

☒ CLEAN SCREEN

**BEFORE YOU GO ANYWHERE ELSE**  
Check before you leave. Check before you go. Recent surveys have shown that 37% of all cars will be back than the recommended level of oil, and 17% are over-filled. The recommended oil level is the best way to keep your engine running smoothly. By putting ESO Ultraton on your checklist, you're helping to prevent your car from being one of them. So go to your local ESO Service station and check it out now.



\*Offer only available at participating ESO Service Stations. While stocks last.







# Teacher recruitment hits low point

RECRUITMENT TO secondary school teaching is plummeting and fewer people are applying to teach mathematics than at any time for more than a decade, according to new figures released today.

The National Association of Head Teachers warned that graduate recruitment is lagging well behind government targets in every subject except PE and history. It said that only a substantial pay rise for teachers

By JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

would halt the decline. Official statistics from the Graduate Teacher Training Registry for one-year postgraduate Certificate of Education applicants compares the number of students who have accepted places on teacher training courses this year with the same figure in mid-August last year. Mathematics is down by

nearly a third and physics by 39 per cent. All secondary subjects show a reduction apart from classics, although primary teaching acceptances are up.

A spokesman for the association said: "While the overall position is extremely serious, there are particularly alarming figures for maths and physics. These statistics have severe implications for the quality of future maths and physics teaching and for students' re-

sults." Ministers are so concerned about teacher recruitment that last autumn they began a £1.5m advertising campaign based on the slogan: "No one forgets a good teacher". But today's figures suggest that the campaign has, so far, made little impact.

The Government is due to publish a Green Paper on teacher recruitment later this year. It is expected to propose performance-related pay to at-

tract bright graduates. In mathematics, acceptances amount to only 40 per cent of the Government target for this year; in sciences 60 per cent, in modern languages 64 per cent and in information technology 48 per cent.

The association's general secretary, David Hart, said: "The teacher recruitment crisis poses a major threat to the Government's public sector pay policy. Any pay settlement

for next year which equates with its inflation target of 2.5 per cent will serve only to make the crisis even worse.

"Government pleas for pay restraint in the private sector and threats of sanctions against so-called fat cats in the utility companies will not recruit one extra teacher. Schools will not recruit teachers of the right quality and in the right quantity unless significant salary increases are awarded to the

teaching profession." Mr Hart acknowledged that last-minute acceptances might change the picture slightly but said it would take a "quantum leap" to hit the Government's targets in most subjects.

The survey notes that the mathematics figures are even worse than those in the mid-eighties, the previous low point.

A spokesman for the Department for Education said: "The Government is concerned

about the reduction in students starting courses in maths and science. The Green Paper will offer the first fundamental look for many years at teaching as a profession. We are going to ensure that we attract, retain and motivate the brightest and best teachers."

He pointed out that targets for primary school teachers were being met: the Government's pledge to reduce infant class sizes was not in danger.

## Professor has world's first silicon chip implant

A BRITISH SCIENTIST has become the first known person to have a silicon chip surgically implanted into his body in an experiment that raises the prospect of a man-machine cyborg.

Kevin Warwick, professor of cybernetics at Reading University, underwent the operation on Monday to place a chip under the skin of his forearm to study the control of intelligent buildings run by computers.

The chip emits a unique identifying signal that a computer can recognise to operate various electronic devices, such as room lights, door locks or lifts.

Professor Warwick said that implanting a silicon chip is the ultimate form of electronic tagging and is more permanent and secure than carrying a smart card. "The potential for this technology is enormous. It is quite possible for an implant to replace an Access or Visa card. There is very little danger in losing an implant or having it stolen," he added.

The implant, which is 23mm long and 8mm wide, emits its unique signal only in the presence of radio frequency waves sent from transmitters placed around an intelligent building. "An implant could carry

By STEVE CONNOR

huge amounts of data on an individual, such as national insurance number and blood type, with this data being updated and added to where necessary," he said. "It could contain information on any medical problems, qualifications, prior convictions and even speeding fines. It would be difficult to lie or cover up such information."

A chip implant could avoid the need to use car keys and would make vehicles more secure, and it could be used to buy train tickets. It would also help a range of organisations to keep track of people.

"Individuals with implants could be clocked in and out of their business automatically. But all this smacks of Big Brother. An individual might not even be able to visit the toilet without a machine knowing about it," the professor said.

Scientists are also working on silicon chip implants that can communicate directly with human nerves. "Human intelligence needs to keep up with the intelligence of machines. If we implant silicon chips into humans, humans can stay ahead," Professor Warwick said.



Man and machine meet under the skin for the first time, with Professor Kevin Warwick showing off the 'smart' silicon chip now implanted in his forearm

INS

## Anger as jeans commercial shows death of hamster

By PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

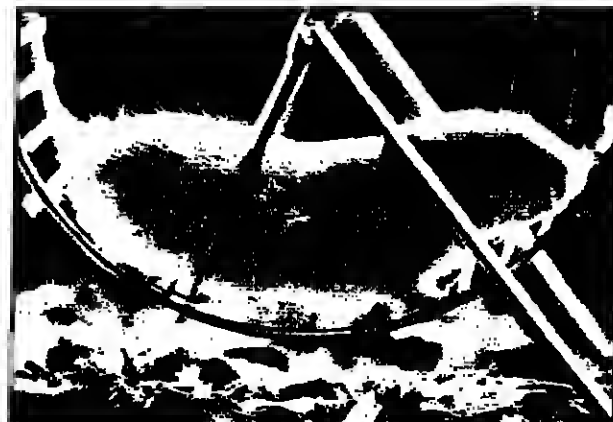
PROVING THE old adage that the best way to offend the British public is to do something unpleasant to a small animal, television watchdogs have been swamped with complaints about an advert that apparently shows a dead hamster.

The Independent Television Commission, has received more than 200 complaints since Levi's started screening a jeans advert starring Kevin the hamster on Thursday.

The response from viewers was unprecedented, said the ITC, and represented a very quick reaction to the ad.

Most complaints are that the advert is in bad taste and that it is upsetting for children. The advert shows a seemingly happy and healthy Kevin running on his wheel until his wheel breaks.

Depression sets in and the advert ends with a dead hamster being prodded with a pencil.



Kevin the hamster, star of the 'disgusting' Levi's ad

The advert had a restriction placed on it to stop it being shown during children's programmes, but it could still be shown before the 9pm watershed.

"I'm not sure that a 7.30 restriction would have made much difference with the aged 10 to 11 hamster-owning age group," said an ITC spokeswoman.

The advert has now been pulled, but a spokesman for the company said that it had only been scheduled to run for one weekend.

Levi's provoked outrage when it ran an advert starring a transsexual in a taxi - its advertising has always been considered cutting-edge.

The Levi Strauss spokesman added: "The aim of the

campaign is certainly not to shock or offend but to entertain the viewer.

"No animals were harmed or suffered any discomfort during the filming of the ad."

Tony Readwin, the National Animal Welfare Trust's spokesman, branded the advert "disgusting" and said that the company had plainly intended it to be as provocative as possible.

He added: "It was obviously going to cause concern for a lot of people and it's got a lot of coverage."

Mr Readwin likened the advert to the much-criticised Benetton clothes campaign.

The RSPCA were less critical, saying the advert of the "dead" hamster was a matter of taste for viewers.

It had not been informed of any animal cruelty, it added.

The advert is yet to be investigated by the ITC, but complaints about offence are not frequently upheld; misleading adverts tend to take up more of the ITC's time.

## Cozy Powell died in the fast lane

THE SEVENTIES' rocker Cozy Powell, who once said that he drove cars like he drummed - madly - was on the phone to his girlfriend as he hurtled down a motorway at 104mph without wearing his seatbelt, an inquest heard yesterday.

Powell, who played with Black Sabbath, Rainbow and Whitesnake, was killed when his powerful black Saab 9000 turbo had a puncture on 5 April.

He was driving up the M4, near Bristol, on his way to visit his girlfriend Sharon Reeve in Cardiff. She heard a "terribly loud noise", then silence, as she talked to him on the phone.

In a statement, Ms Reeve

By KATE WATSON-SMYTH

said that Powell had just told her he was having problems finding fifth gear, and hoped the engine would not seize up as he was going so fast.

Then she heard him say: "Oh shit", and the line went silent.

She kept trying to ring him back until she realised something was wrong and contacted the police. Powell, 50, was found to be slightly over the drink-drive limit after the car spun, hit the central kerb, and came to rest on its roof.

Paul Forrest, the Bristol coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.

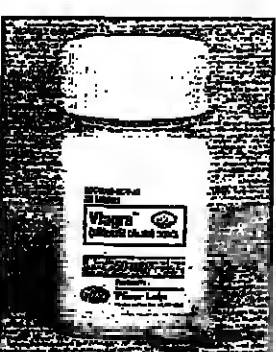
## VIAGRA CORNER

DESPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

IMPOTENCE MYTHS are the same the world over, according to a global survey of men's attitudes to sexual dysfunction, commissioned by Pfizer, the manufacturer of Viagra.

A poll of more than 4,000 men from 10 countries today showed that half the respondents in each country thought impotence was caused by psychological factors such as stress and anxiety.

Fewer than 25 per cent correctly identified high blood pressure and diabetes as two of the most common conditions behind impotence. One in three thought impotence was a natural consequence of



ageing. Alcohol was cited as the leading cause of impotence by Germans, Moroccans and Swedes.

JOHN VON RADOWITZ

UNBELIEVABLE



The Satellite Pro 490CDT is now unbelievably good value. With its high-performance Pentium II® Processor and built-in CD-ROM, microphone and speakers - it is now available for £1795 Ex. VAT at PC World Business Direct

- 233MHz Pentium II®
- Swappable 20-speed CD-ROM drive
- 3.82GB HDD / 32MB EDO RAM
- High-resolution 12.1" TFT colour screen

Plus

- Free carry case
- Free EXTRA 32MB RAM\*

To find out more call us now on  
**01706 367 567**

Fax: 0800 367 567

E mail: sales@pcwbd.co.uk

Also available from PC World Superstores.  
Telephone 0990 464 464 for your nearest store.

\*Free carry case and extra 32MB RAM only available on Satellite Pro 490CDT, while stocks last. Please note the free extra 32MB RAM memory may not be applied if the laptop is already equipped with 32MB RAM. A small installation charge may be made.

مكتبة الامير



JP 11/10/150

THE POINT

point

Who decides when and how you make your  
**REPAYMENTS?**

Do you need to fill out tedious forms to get a  
**CAR LOAN?**

Does your mortgage also apply to your rate of interest?  
**CREDIT CARD?**

Do you have to give 90 days notice to get at your  
**SAVINGS?**

Can you utilise the money tied up in your  
**ASSETS?**

Just how flexible is your  
**MORTGAGE?**

How hard is the money in your  
**CURRENT ACCOUNT** working for you?

Do you get charged just for having an  
**OVERDRAFT?**

08456 000 00 1  
*Virgin*

Open 7 Days a week, 24 Hours a day



# Do you really know what's happening with your finances?

If you're like most people, you probably have your finances all over the place with each thing belonging in its own jam-jar. And working with a different set of rules. Your loans could cost a higher rate of interest than your mortgage. Your credit cards could be even higher. But it's likely that any savings you have pay you a much lower rate. And this tends to fall even more if you want instant access. Then if you want the best rates for loans or mortgages, you could get penalised if you want to pay it back early. In fact, there's only one thing that all these jam-jars have in common. Your money.

It's as if the whole system has been designed to baffle you rather than help you. If you've had enough of not being in charge of your money, perhaps it's about time you thought about a Virgin One account.

## What does One do?

It works by putting all of your money and borrowings in one place. That's everything from your current account and your savings through to your mortgage. This way you can see exactly what you own and exactly what you owe. There's a single competitive mortgage rate of interest for all your borrowings, no matter what you want to spend the money on. When you want to increase your borrowings within the agreed facility, there are no forms and no meetings. You can just write out a cheque. Then when you want to reduce it,

you simply pay into the account without any charges or penalties. You can do this as often or as little as you like and, because interest is calculated daily, every pound that you leave in is saving you money every day that it's there. You pay your salary in which immediately reduces your balance and the interest that it costs, and then take the money out again as you want it. You get a cheque book, Visa card and Switch card and, as it's a secured bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland, you can use your cashpoint



Elizabeth and Patrick Mollineux became one of Virgin One's first customers when the account was launched in October of last year.

Remortgaging their two bedroomed house in Horsham, the couple agreed a facility of £83,000 with Virgin, to cover their existing mortgage debt plus a contingency amount. "I was very excited about the account" said Elizabeth "its whole philosophy appealed to me. The One account gives us complete control, allowing us to keep our money where it works hardest for us all the time. The monthly statements make it clear where we stand, and that's been a good motivation to spend less and pay off our loan as quickly as possible." "Dealing with the staff at Virgin Direct could not have been easier. There's been none of the frustrating experiences I had with my last bank, none of the bureaucracy and rigmarole, just friendly efficient staff who want to help you. We haven't looked back."

Luke Jones has just bought his first flat in Kensington, west London and has opted for the Virgin One account to finance it. He has a facility of around £110,000. Having recently started up his own IT recruitment business, Luke did not want to tie himself down to the regular payment schemes laid down by other mortgage providers. He prefers the fact that with a Virgin One account he can pay back his home loan at his own convenience. "The account is effectively an overdraft facility. This means I can make larger repayments if I want to. I don't have specific plans about when I want to pay the mortgage off and that's the whole joy of an account like this: it's so completely flexible. In fact, since I moved in March, I have already paid off a chunk of my borrowings as I budgeted for higher moving costs than I incurred."



## Make the most of your assets

This means that when you need a large sum of money, you don't need to beg for a loan and then pay a rate of interest that can be much higher than your mortgage rate. Provided you keep within an agreed limit based on the value of your home, you can have the money straightaway. Whether it's for a car or some furniture, a holiday or a hobby, it doesn't matter to us. This lets you use the equity in your home as it goes up in value, and then pay it back in when it suits you. That means there are no set monthly repayments, you just pay your salary in and leave as much of it in the account as you want.

## Pay your mortgage off early.

On the other hand, if you want to save money by reducing your loan as quickly as possible you can do that too. Because you pay your salary in, plus any savings that you have, you reduce your borrowings and therefore the interest

due on them. This not only means that you can pay off your loan early but, because it's interest saved and not earned, you pay no tax on it. It's effectively like having a savings account at 8.2% without tax. And, what's more, you have instant access at any time to any money you've paid into the account.

## Puts you in control

The One account lets you decide how you want to manage your finances between now and retirement. After all, it's your money and your future so you're the best person to decide what you need and how to handle it. You don't have to settle for the best compromise any more and trying to organize your life around your finances. Now you can take control and organize your finances around your life.

If you have, or are about to buy, a home with a mortgage of at least £50,000, then give us a call on 08456 000 001 to find out if we're right for you. The Virgin One account. It's no small change.

The Virgin One account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

**Virgin**  
**one account**  
**08456 000 001**

Open 7 Days a week, 24 Hours a day

\*Examples of what you may be paying if you organize your finances using jam jars are Barclaycard Standard APR 22.5% (unsecured), Lloyds Bank Unsecured Personal Loan APR 21.9% and Natwest Credit Zone Overdraft APR 25% (assuming an overdraft of £1,000, monthly interest rate of 1.38% and monthly fee of £5). Source: Moneyfacts, August 1998. Remember, only at Virgin Direct Personal Finance Service Ltd, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for the insurance, pension and investment business, can you get a Virgin One account. The actual rate of interest payable depends on the amount of money you want to borrow in relation to the value of your home. For example, if you wanted to borrow £75,000 secured against a home worth £200,000, you would pay 8.2%. (This rate is planned to be 8.2% for the first year of the loan and then it will be 8.2% plus the Bank of England's base rate, which is currently 5.5%.) The APR includes bank registration fees and our solicitors' fees which you will have to pay. In this example these fees would amount to £400. You will also have to pay your own solicitors' fees. In calculating the APR we have assumed you will have to pay your solicitors' fees. For your security all calls are recorded and randomly monitored. The Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Discovery House, Whitting Rd, Norwich, NR6 6EJ. The APR includes bank registration fees and our solicitors' fees which you will have to pay. In this example these fees would amount to £400. You will also have to pay your own solicitors' fees. In calculating the APR we have assumed you will have to pay your solicitors' fees. For your security all calls are recorded and randomly monitored. The Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Discovery House, Whitting Rd, Norwich, NR6 6EJ.

Green  
Motoring  
HOLIDAY  
JOIN



Do you really know what's

# One in ten of the world's tree species are facing extinction

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

TEN PER CENT of the world's tree species - including 11 types in the UK - are facing extinction, according to a report published today.

Uncontrollable forest fires, illegal logging and the expansion of human settlements are blamed for the demise, described after three years of study by conservation groups worldwide.

The project found that more than 8,750 of the world's 80,000 to 100,000 tree species are under threat. Almost 1,000 tree types are believed to be "critically endangered" and some species have been reduced to single figures. In Britain the most endangered species, of the Sorbus variety, is down to the teens and twenties in some areas, despite the growing success of a scheme backed by British retailers to use timber taken only from properly managed forests.

The report, carried out by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), will be launched at the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in Geneva today, where delegates are tackling the growing crisis facing the world's forests.

Dr Steve Howard, head of the WWF's global forest and tree initiative, said yesterday: "With 77 species already extinct, this report has now confirmed our worst nightmare. The governments gathering this week must now realise the sense of urgency to increase forest protection, eliminate illegal logging and improve forest management."

Sarah Oldfield of the WCMC said: "We have found that threats to tree species are increasing and that unless conservation action is taken immediately, some species face certain extinction and many others will be joining the list of threatened trees."

Felling for timber and wood fuel, agriculture, expansion of human settlements and uncontrolled forest fires are

## THREATENED OVERALL

Threat category:	Number of species
Extinct	77
Extinct in the wild	18
Critically endangered	976
Endangered	1,319
Vulnerable	3,609
Lower risk: near threatened	752
Lower risk: conservation dependent	262
Data deficient (extent of threat not known)	375
Globally threatened Australian tree species	141
Globally threatened Japanese tree species	202
Miscellaneous threatened species	1,022
Total number of globally threatened tree species	8,753

## 10 MOST ENDANGERED

Name	Population
Diospyros katzenel, Uganda	20
Sorbus wilmottiana, UK	20
Picea martinensis, Mexico	15
Voanioala gerardii, Madagascar	10
Quercus x tardifolia, USA	5
Ilex khasiana, India	3/4
Eschweilera piresii, French Guyana	2
Holmskioldia gigas, Kenya	1
Carpinus putoensis, China	1
Diospyros angulata, Mauritius	1/2



Tony Robinson, English Nature site manager, measuring a English Whitebeam in the Avon Gorge yesterday.

David Rose

among the factors threatening tree species, according to the report, which was funded by the Dutch government.

Environmentalists are urging people in Britain to ease the global crisis by buying only timber that the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has certified as coming from well-

managed forests. The WWF has set up a business initiative with retailers in the UK who will sell wood only from approved sources.

"Retailers are getting together to do something about the problem. Members of the group source as much of their timber products as possible

from FSC supplies," said Ed Matthew, a WWF spokesman.

He added: "The scheme is already proving to be a success. As demand for it has increased from retailers, more foresters from around the world are increasing the availability of FSC-approved timber."

"They are changing the way

they manage these forests to ensure it complies with the standards. There are now 10 million hectares of FSC forest worldwide. It is really beginning to take off."

Researchers for the report - The World List of Threatened Trees - found that more than 75 per cent of threatened species

are not subject to any conservation measures. Only 12 per cent are recorded in protected areas and only 8 per cent of species are known to be in cultivation.

The 11 species listed as threatened with extinction in the UK are all in the Sorbus group. The ones described as

"critically endangered" include Ley's Whitebeam (Sorbus Leyana), with only 16 trees surviving in two sites in Breconshire, and the Sorbus Wilmottiana, which has been reduced to 20 trees in the Avon Gorge. Quarrying and logging are among the reasons blamed for their plight.

## Water quality divides Britain

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THERE IS now a clear divide in water quality between the north-west and south-east of the country, according to figures released by the Environment Agency.

Although water quality improvement has continued or been maintained in the north-west, Wales, the Midlands and the south-west, it has declined in the Southern, Thames and Anglian regions - the areas hit hardest by low rainfall.

An Environment Agency spokesman said yesterday: "In low flowing, warmer rivers like those in the south-east there is less dissolved oxygen than in cooler, fast flowing rivers of the north and west. River wildlife needs oxygen to survive and the lack of dissolved oxygen could have a serious impact."

Algae, which is more prevalent in low-flowing warmer rivers, also affects the amount of dissolved oxygen in a river and many rivers in the south-east are fed by groundwater springs, which contain less dissolved oxygen than surface waters.

The latest results show that last year the chemical quality of river water was 21 per cent better than in 1990, the baseline year against which such changes are now measured. This is not as good as for the previous two years - 1996 (26 per cent) and 1995 (28 per cent).

Yesterday's report by the Environment Agency called for investigations into the effect of the changing weather patterns on rivers and canals and warned that, if nothing was done, there could be a "severe impact" on the amount of water available to the public, industry and the environment.

Dr Jan Pentreath, the Environment Agency's chief scientist, said that climate change will affect not only the supply of water, but demand for it, such as increased crop irrigation in warmer, drier areas.

He said the situation could be aggravated by other factors, such as the 4.4 million new homes that are planned for the south-east.

# Green Flag

Motoring Assistance

**BEAT THE BANK  
HOLIDAY RUSH.  
JOIN TODAY.**

- 1 Recovery Only £25.00
- 2 Roadside Assistance £25.00
- 3 Comprehensive £72.00
- 4
- 5

This bank holiday, don't get in a jam. On average we'll be with you in 35 minutes. And if we're not with you in less than one hour, you can claim £10 back. As 3.5 million members know, you're better off with Green Flag. Call now for cover from only £34.00.

GREEN FLAG, Freepost, Leeds. West Yorkshire LS99 4SF Please send me further information about GREEN FLAG.

NAME (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_ HOME TEL \_\_\_\_\_

http://www.greenflag.co.uk

\*Prices quoted are for continuous payment methods only. Terms registered before 31/7/97 are subject to an additional fee of £15.

WE LEAVE YOU

LEGAL & GENERAL FAMILY PROTECTION PLAN

# life assurance?

Here's a low-cost alternative.

£50,500 of life COVER FOR JUST 20p A DAY

Introducing low-cost term assurance from Legal & General.

Wouldn't it make sense to pay for life assurance only when you really need it? When your children are growing up, for example. Now you can, with the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

For just 20p a day (subject to individual details), the lump sum is paid should you die during the term of the policy. For that premium,

a non-smoking man aged 30 could get £50,500 of cover for 15 years.

But the real advantage is you choose the term of the policy and the amount of cover you require or the monthly contribution that suits you.

So if you'd prefer life assurance that isn't a lifetime commitment, call 0500 33 66 66 or send for your personal, no-obligation quote today.

\*Equivalent to £0.08 a month.

Minimum premium of £5.00 per month equates to 17p a day. Full written details available on request. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick the box in the coupon. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Legal & General Direct Limited, registered in England No. 2702980 Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TR.

free £10  
Interflora voucher

When you order your flowers from Interflora

0500 33 66 66

0500 33 66 66

Please send me, without obligation, an information pack on The Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

Title (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Tel no. home \_\_\_\_\_ Tel no. work \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC0467), Cardiff CF1 1YW (no stamp required)

Further information on other Legal & General products is available on our website: www.LandG.com

Call now for an instant quote

For your protection, calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored.

I do not wish to receive information on other Legal & General products ☐

Legal & General

trust us to deliver



# British science 'best in Europe'

COOL BRITANNIA has invaded the hallowed halls of academe. British science has come out top in a survey of European centres of scientific excellence.

London has beaten Paris and Moscow as the leading research centre in Europe with scientists in the British capital publishing more high-quality research papers than anywhere on the Continent.

Cambridge also comes first as the place where more of the best science is produced per head of its population, compared with any other university city on this side of the Atlantic.

The message is pride. British scientists can hold their heads up, said Christian Matthiessen, professor of geography at the University of Copenhagen, who has spent more than a year assessing the scientific output of 39 European centres.

Scientists in London produced nearly 45,000 research papers between 1994 and 1995 compared with nearly 40,000 by Parisian researchers and 40,000 by scientists based in Moscow.

Taking into account the differences in population size, Cambridge scientists were the

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

most productive, publishing 81 research papers per head of the city's population with Oxford coming second with 41 papers per capita.

Professor Matthiessen said it was the first time anybody had tried systematically to study the relative scientific prowess of different urban centres, although companies wanted to know which city was the best for investment in research and development.

The Danish team spent a year defining the boundaries of different urban centres and decided that some cities, such as Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht, were so closely integrated that they could be treated as one centre.

British urban centres such as Oxford and Reading, Edinburgh and Glasgow and Manchester and Liverpool came behind Berlin but outperformed the German centres of Munich, Frankfurt and Cologne.

Professor Matthiessen said that, although London was much larger than many other capital cities in Europe and had an in-built advantage of size, it would still rank highest in the league table.

"The sheer size of the research community in London is very large, but they are very productive," he said.

London came top in six out of ten leading categories of research, excelling in the fields of biochemistry, medicine, neuroscience, immunology, environmental sciences and biotechnology.

London scientists produced the most research papers in more than half of the 162 fields of science analysed by Professor Matthiessen.

## EUROPE'S TOP RESEARCH CITIES

City	Total papers	Per capita
London	64,742	7
Paris	45,752	5
Moscow	39,903	3
Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht	36,158	10
Copenhagen, Lund	21,631	11
Stockholm, Uppsala	20,195	12
Berlin	19,872	5
Oxford, Reading	18,876	41
Edinburgh, Glasgow	18,688	10
Manchester, Liverpool	18,653	5
Cambridge	17,764	81



Stomp displays the raw materials - dustbins and their lids - from which his art has grown to win an Emmy nomination. Geraint Lewis

## Award-winning dance film is consigned to the TV dustbin

A BRITISH film nominated for an Emmy and made by Stomp, the innovative British dance and percussion group, has failed to find a UK television company interested in showing it despite selling in more than 100 countries overseas.

Stomp Out Loud, a 50-minute special filmed in the streets of New York for HBO, the American cable company, has been nominated for best direction, best art direction, best sound and best editing in the Emmys, American television's equivalent of the Oscars. It was shown on US television last December.

Yet despite selling in Latin

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

America, Europe and Asia, so far no British broadcaster has bought the UK rights to the film.

Stomp is the Brighton-based group that became famous when it made an advertisement for Heineken that showed its members banging dustbin lids. Stomp has since travelled the world with its live show, made adverts for Coca-Cola, appeared on stage at the Oscar ceremony last year and featured on albums by artists including Quincy Jones.

In the past it has won

Olivier, Obie and Drama Desk Awards for its theatre performances.

"Stomp Out Loud tells a love story through dance, drumming and banging things," says Fred Hassan, head of Yes/No Productions, which made the film. "It is an amazing piece of work - like a percussion West Side Story. It filled a cinema in Brighton when we had a showing and it's a great shame no British broadcaster wants to air it."

Mike Morris, who is handling negotiations for the sale of the show at the programme sales agency ITTEL, is hopeful a British broadcaster might yet

show an interest. "The problem has been the nature of the programme. Broadcasters don't know it is an arts documentary or an entertainment piece."

"Programme acquisition people usually have very specific remits about what their budget is for and what they can buy. As a consequence it has been getting passed around because no one is sure if it is their area."

A spokesman for Channel 4 said the film was rejected because it did not come up to the company's editorial standards, nor did it fit with its plans for two dance series this year.

Stomp was formed in 1991 by Luke Crosswell and Steve McNicholas, two members of the street band Pookiesack-enburger, and the theatre group Cliff Hanger. The two groups had presented street comedy musicals at the Edinburgh Festival throughout the early 1980s before producing albums and touring Europe.

The "Bins" commercial for Heineken Lager was originally written and choreographed by Luke Crosswell as part of the band's stage show.

Stomp won an Olivier award for its sell-out run at Sadler's Wells and in the West End of London in 1994.

## Nurses 'paid a fifth of worth'

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

NURSING MANAGERS are paid as little as a fifth of their counterparts in the private sector, according to a new survey by a magazine.

An investigation was started by the *Nursing Standard* after Julia Fearon, a nursing ward manager announced publicly at a Royal College of Nursing council meeting that she was leaving the profession because of staff shortages and poor pay. After 17 years she earned just £21,440 a year.

But recruitment consultants told the journal that a manager with the equivalent training and responsibility of Ms Fearon working in marketing, retail, accountancy, design and marketing could command a salary of between £30,000 and £100,000.

Unions warned that unless pay was addressed throughout the profession, the crisis of nursing recruitment would not be resolved. While the Government has promised an extra 15,000 nurses for the National Health Service to try to solve recruitment problems, there are currently 8,000 nursing vacancies. Of roughly 500,000 nurses nationwide, a quarter are eligible for retirement in the next two years.

Figures released earlier this month show that new admissions to the register of the regulatory body for nursing, midwifery and health visiting are at their lowest level yet.

As a nursing ward manager, Ms Fearon's responsibilities included a staff of 31, with 24-hour responsibility for her department and development of an annual business plan.

The Royal College of Nursing will present its evidence to the Pay Review Body for next year's nurses' pay award in the next few weeks.

"This story is evidence of how little our nursing managers are valued despite the huge amount of responsibility they have got," said an RCN spokeswoman. "It is time to realise that they are the role models for the future that we are in danger of losing."

Blow your mind.  
Not your budget.



Our latest model is a top gun performer, at an unbelievably low price. The G6-450 is a mega-powerful internet-ready PC loaded with the latest multimedia technology. It features the new, fastest ever Intel Pentium II processor, 450 MHz, running on the high performance BX ACPset. It also includes a DVD-ROM drive and sports a huge 17" monitor.

You'll like our offer sales service as much as your new PC. It's also reassuring to know that every Gateway product carries a standard warranty and a money-back guarantee. To find out more, call Gateway, today.



0800 39 2000

Gateway • Clonsilla Industrial Estate • Dublin 17 • Ireland  
Gateway Showroom • 10 Bedford Street • Covent Garden • London WC2E 9HE

G6-450	
• Intel® Pentium® II Processor, 450MHz	• 512Kb L2 Cache
• Intel 440BX ACPset	• 64MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 768MB
• SGB 9.5ms ATA Hard Drive	• 3.5" 1.44 MB Floppy Disk Drive
• Toshiba® DVD-ROM II Drive	• STB MPACT 4MB ACP Graphics Accelerator M/H/W MPEG2
• Sound Blaster® Audio® PCI 64V	• Boston Acoustics® 635 SW Speakers with 15W Sub Woofer
• 56K Winmodem™ - Internal	• 17" EV700 TCO-92 0.28dp Monitor™
• ATX Tower Case	• 105 Keyboard
• Microsoft® Windows® 98, MS® Intellimouse™	• McAfee Anti-Virus Software, MS Internet Explorer 4.0
• MS Home Essentials	• Choice of a Gateway Software Bundle: Arcadia Source or Young Scholar
£1299 (£1560.40 including VAT & Delivery)	

Let's talk about your Gateway  
www.gateway.com/uk

WE WILL SEND AN ORIGINAL SET OF FAMOUS SENSAL KITCHEN AND STEAK KNIVES TO EVERY READER FOR ONLY 50p

THIS IS NOT A MISPRINT! per knife

OFFERS ENDS MIDNIGHT, 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION

That's right! Until 30 days after the date of this publication an original set of famous Sensal Kitchen and Steak Knives can be yours for only 50p per knife with not even one penny extra to pay for postage and packing. This genuine Sensal 10 piece knife set is renowned throughout the world for its amazing cutting technology - no more sharpening - ever! All the knives you'll ever need to slice, peel, cut and chop meat, vegetables and fruit effortlessly. How can we make such an incredible offer - a famous Sensal 10 piece knife set for just 50p per knife? It is possible only because we are doing it as part of a Test Marketing Survey... to determine where it would be best to concentrate our advertising efforts - in newspapers, magazines or TV guides. The number of replies from each medium will guide us in approaching a possible multi-million pound advertising budget. The original set of 10 famous Sensal Kitchen and Steak Knives will not be sold by this company in any store. Note, we cannot prevent stores from selling these superb knives at much higher prices. There is a limit of three (3) 10 piece knife sets per address at this price but orders mailed within the next seven days may request up to five (5) 10 piece knife sets. All 10 piece knife sets are unconditionally guaranteed to please or return within 30 days for prompt and full refund - no questions asked.

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS TO RECEIVE YOUR FABULOUS FAMOUS SENSAL KNIFE SET

Mail this original printed notice (no photocopies or fax copies will be accepted) together with your name and address (please print clearly) and £5 post free for each Knife set requested to:

HEALTH AND HOME SHOPPING, DEPT 3235SN, 47 BRUNEL AVENUE, MANCHESTER M5 4JB

Please send me: Qty \_\_\_\_\_ 10 piece Sensal Knife Set  
@ £5 per set. Post free.  
Sorry! Maximum 3 per household or order within seven days and request up to 5 Sensal Knife sets.  
I enclose Cheque/P.O. for £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Health and Home Shopping or charge my Mastercard/Visa/Switch/Delta account.  
My card no is \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Ms/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Post Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Switch Card Issue No \_\_\_\_\_  
Health and Home Shopping, Dept 3235SN, 47 Brunel Avenue, Manchester M5 4JB  
Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. Offer applies to UK mainland inc. N. Ireland only. If you do not wish to receive mailings from other companies PLEASE TICK BOX. ☐

HPS Trading (UK) plc. Reg. No. 1836104



is  
n

**WILL  
LL  
AN  
F FAMOUS  
STEAK KNIVES**

...and the ...

# US strives to justify air strike on Sudan

A boy waits at a feeding centre near Agiep in southern Sudan, where the first major distribution of food in two weeks was made to the 35,000 refugees massed there. Alex Sutton/AP

# Missing calls?

## CALL DIVERSION



*Then don't miss  
this offer.*

Be sure to sign up for Call Diversion between now and 31st August for only £2.95 and receive another BT Select Service\* free for three months. What's more, you'll get 250 minutes of local weekend calls per month thrown in. So don't worry about missing any of your calls - when they can follow you to another phone. Ring BT today.

how much more  
BT has to offer you

**Freefone 0800 800 040**

\*INCLUDES CALL WAITING, UNLIMITED RING BACK, CALLER DISPLAY, UNLIMITED REMINDER CALL AND CALL BARRING. THE DIVERTED PART OF THE CALL IS CHARGED AT NORMAL RATES. MONTHLY PRICE QUOTED.

## Phoney jobs inquiry extends to Juppé

*'No one gives money to the poor. That would be silly. You might catch something, such as their poorness'*

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—

[illegible]



# ARCTIC CONDITIONS YOU'LL WARM TO.



(£1,500\* WORTH OF FREE EXTRAS, INCLUDING AIR-CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, METALLIC PAINT, PLUS 50:50 FINANCE OR 0% INTEREST.)

Not wanting to leave you out in the cold, Vauxhall are offering you the chance to pick up a Vectra Arctic packed with more goodies than your fridge. There's free air-conditioning, alloy wheels, ABS, electric front windows, front fog lamps and a full sized driver's airbag. There's even a choice of engines. 1.8 16v, 2.0L DI Diesel, DTi Diesel or a tundra trembling 2.5 V6. And seeing as how it's important to look cool, the Arctic is finished in premium blue, star silver metallic or polar sea blue. All from just £14,695 with (and here's the best bit) the choice between our 50:50 or 0% interest plans. Time to put your skates on and get down to your Vauxhall dealer.

VECTRA ARCTIC  
**VAUXHALL**

FOR  
MORE  
DETAILS  
PHONE

0  
3  
4  
5  
4  
0  
0  
8  
0  
0

Cremlin  
shake-up  
fixed in  
secret at  
Cannes



What can we do



Nigerians set date  
for presidential po

JP 11/15/98

\*BASED ON 2000 VECTRA 1.8 16V. VECTRA 1.8 16V MANUFACTURER'S LIST PRICE. PRICES CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDE Vauxhall's ON-THE-ROAD PRICING OF £1529, 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE, £150 AND £20 VVA REGISTRATION FEE. 3 YEARS 0% INTEREST AND 50:50 FINANCE APPLIES TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, NOT TO REGISTERED BUSINESSES, MOBILITY AND AUTHORITY HAVE PERSONAL CREDIT. ONLY FOR ARCTIC MODELS BETWEEN 1.8 16V AND 2.5 V6. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: 1.8 16V VECTRA ARCTIC £14,695 ON-THE-ROAD, 50% DEPOSIT AT £7,347.50, AMOUNT OF CREDIT £7,347.50, 36 MONTHS PAYMENTS £204.10, TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £14,695. APR 0% WRITTEN QUOTATIONS FROM CAMS WHEELHOUSE, LUTON LUS 200. A CREDIT CHECK MAY BE REQUIRED. APPLICANTS MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 18. WWW.VAUXHALL.CO.UK







# Starr has 'mountain' of evidence for Clinton perjury



Clinton: Family 'healing' may not be enough

THERE WERE new indications yesterday that the report of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, into the activities of President Bill Clinton could be every bit as damaging as the Clinton camp fears, and could make it hard for Congress to resist an impeachment hearing.

A lawyer close to the investigation was quoted as saying prosecutors had assembled "a mountain" of evidence that Mr Clinton had perjured himself over his now-admitted affair with Monica Lewinsky and obstructed justice in trying to

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

cover it up. Forecasts about the contents of Mr Starr's report have veered in recent weeks, from first indications that it would be more comprehensive and damning than expected, to a report before Mr Clinton's admission of his affair with Ms Lewinsky that it would deal only with the Lewinsky case.

The logic that led the Attorney-General to add the Lewinsky case to the other Clinton investigations being conducted

by Mr Starr - into the failed Whitewater land deal, the transfer of FBI files to the White House (Filegate) and the sacking of the White House travel-office staff (Travelgate) - however, has always made the more comprehensive version the more credible.

It is speculated that Mr Starr has evidence to back up not only the contention that Mr Clinton lied under oath when he denied an affair with Ms Lewinsky but that efforts to keep the affair - and other indiscretions - quiet entailed the silencing of others,

whether by inducements or threats. Mr Starr is expected to present his report as early as next month.

With the Clinton family keeping themselves to themselves behind the walls of their borrowed estate on Martha's Vineyard, the public is being spun tales of a troubled but "healing" family working out its differences. These are intended to rebuild Mr Clinton's image and present him as just another erring family man. Rather than living it up at a noisy party, the Clintons celebrated Bill's birthday

at dinner with friends. On Sunday they kept themselves to themselves, not even venturing out to church. On Monday Mr Clinton went to lunch with one set of friends, Mrs Clinton went on a boating trip with female friends. The "healing-reconciliation-closure" language of officials, referred to dismissively by some reporters outside the White House press corps as psychobabble, is paving the way for a reconciliation before the First Family returns to Washington next weekend.

The picture of gradual "healing" in Martha's Vineyard is not replicated elsewhere. Polls from across the country show Mr Clinton's hitherto irrepressible job-approval rating has slipped a little, but, more significantly, his personal credibility rating is on a slide.

One poll has it as low as 19 per cent, similar to Richard Nixon's at his nadir. The number of people expressing outright dislike for Mr Clinton has also risen. Still more worrying to the Clinton camp may be insistent "insider" reports from within the White House appa-

ratus and the Administration, as well as Congress, suggesting the extent of disaffection among Mr Clinton's immediate staff and supporters. As one of Washington's most influential commentators, Thomas Friedman, wrote in *The New York Times* yesterday, the question may not be whether Mr Clinton "should" be president any more but whether he "can" be president. Unless Mr Clinton can repair the damage to his credibility, he said, "it is going to paralyse his ability to govern, whatever Mr Starr does".

## Castro fools ever-present death squads

WHEN FIDEL CASTRO arrived in the Dominican Republic for a Caribbean summit last weekend he flew in, as always, on one of two identical Tupolev airliners. That way, anyone trying to blow him up would have only a 50-50 chance. Two Dominican fighter planes escorted the Tupolevs.

He drove into Santo Domingo in one of three identical black limousines, for the same reason. A helicopter followed and a patrol boat steamed alongside the coastal road. As Mr Castro put it in a speech on Monday, he probably holds the world record for assassination attempts against him. But he has survived to celebrate his 72nd birthday this month and looks likely to celebrate 40 years in power on New Year's Day. It used to be the CIA that tried to eliminate him, with everything from an exploding cigar to a spiked milkshake. More recently, he has been targeted by Miami-based Cuban exiles.

The Jaragua hotel in Santo Domingo, where Mr Castro stayed, surrounded by 100 of his security men on one floor, reported receiving dozens of calls or faxes threatening to kill its most famous guest. Most appeared to come from Miami.

The Dominican Republic took the calls with a pinch of salt but there were other reports it took more seriously. Visitors of Cuban origin were screened before Mr Castro arrived. A Cuban-born man with a Spanish passport was arrested after being found with a notebook containing details of Mr Castro's travel plans. Police said they did not have enough evidence to suggest he was plot-

BY PHIL DAVISON  
Latin America Correspondent

ting to kill Mr Castro but that he would be deported.

This month *The Miami Herald* said a well-known Cuban exile, Luis Posada Carriles, was planning to kill Mr Castro during his visit to the Dominican Republic. Mr Posada, 68, was accused of being behind the explosion of a Cuban airliner near Barbados in 1976 in which 73 people died. He spent



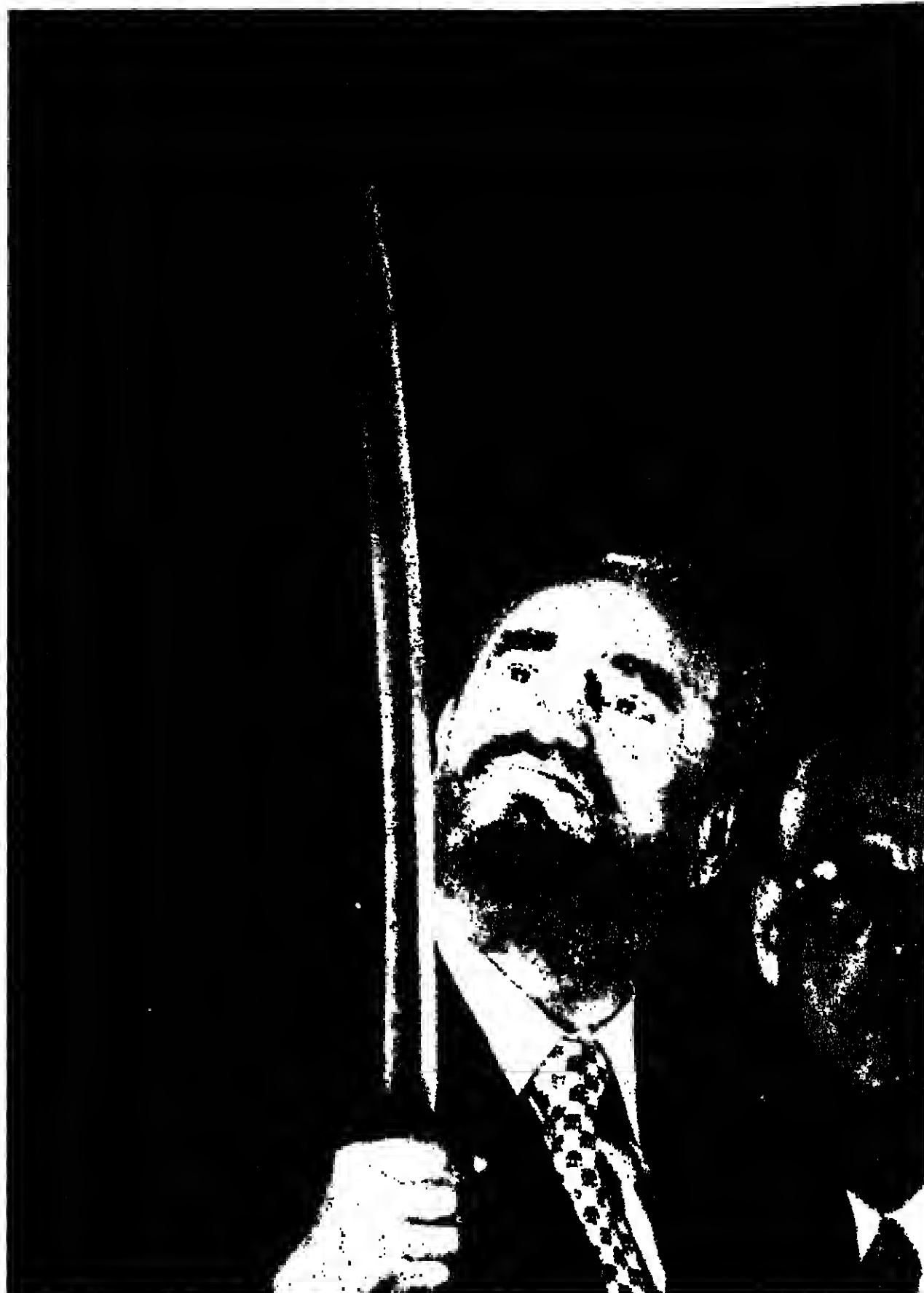
10 years in jail. He also led a team of Cuban exiles who planned to kill Mr Castro on a visit to Colombia four years ago, and tried to blow up a Cuban freighter in Honduras in 1993. Mr Posada said he had masterminded bombings around Havana last year aimed at scaring off tourists. He said he used Guatemalan tourists to smuggle in plastic explosives in nappies, shampoo bottles and shoes. Initially, Mr Posada told *The New York Times*, the most influential Cuban exile lobby group, the Miami-based Cuban American National Foundation

(CANF) had financed the Havana bombings. Later, however, he said he had deliberately "disinformed" the newspaper to protect the identities of his real backers.

Two CANF leaders are expected to be indicted this week in connection with another alleged plot to kill Mr Castro, while the Cuban leader attended a summit on the Venezuelan island of Margarita last November. Before the summit, a US Coast Guard vessel stopped a cabin cruiser off Puerto Rico and found two sniper rifles, ammunition, uniforms and military equipment. One of the four Miami-based Cuban exiles on board said they were planning to kill Mr Castro on Margarita.

Investigations disclosed that one of the rifles belonged to Francisco "Pepe" Hernandez, the CANF president, and that the cruiser was registered to another CANF executive, José Antonio Llana. Their lawyers say they are likely to be indicted this week in Puerto Rico, that they acknowledge ownership of the rifle and boat but were not involved in any plot to kill Mr Castro.

As for the bearded leader himself, he proved he was very much alive in the speech on Monday to students in Santo Domingo that lasted almost as long as four football matches. Joking, to applause, about the assassination plots, he said: "Men die but people are immortal. There are often reports that Castro's time is running out. But the fools and idiots don't realise that's not what's important. What value would the revolution have if it depended only on a Castro?"



Fidel Castro with a sword, used in Cuba's independence war, and presented to him during his visit

## China's flood figures omit deaths

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

IN CHINA there is a statistic for just about anything.

Flood officials wheeled out yesterday by the government to update the world on this year's watery disaster announced that 130,000 "leading officials" in Hubei province were protecting the Yangtze dykes; 276,000 soldiers had helped resolve 3,782 "dangerous situations" in flood areas; and 22,728 medical teams had been dispatched into the disaster regions.

But how many people had actually died so far in the worst floods since 1954, and what was the estimated economic cost of the flooding?

"We are in the process of verification," said Zhou Wenzhi, vice-minister for water conservancy. China did not yet have a reliable figure for total deaths but "after this verification process we will truthfully release this figure to the world," said Mr Zhou.

Zhao Qizheng, a government spokesman, lashed out at "outrageous and absurd" estimates in the foreign media of the death toll, and jumped in to stop anyone drawing the wrong conclusion from this reticence. The updated toll would "by no means" double the 3 August figure of 2,100 killed, he said.

For weeks China's domestic media have managed to give blanket coverage of the floods without mentioning how many people are dying.

But Mr Zhou criticised foreign media reports, especially concerning the dyke collapse in Jiayu county, Hubei province, on 1 August. He lambasted one report of 3,000 casualties as "groundless".

After "repeated investigations and verifications" the number of Jiayu dead was 44, he said. No one had been killed or injured in the major Yangtze dyke breach at Juliang city in early August, he insisted.

As for direct economic losses, due to efforts being put into fighting the floods, Mr Zhou said the government "does not have enough time" to make the difficult analysis. That would come in the future.

Senior officials from the two provinces worst hit by flooding were less bashful. North-east Heilongjiang estimated losses due to the flood at 20 billion yuan (\$1.54bn), and central Hubei gave a figure of 38.4 billion yuan (\$2.85bn). One quarter of Heilongjiang's grain harvest had been wiped out, said the deputy governor, Ma Shufu.

The sensitivity of such figures means that the total human and economic cost of this year's floods will not be clear for some time. There are also several weeks left for the toll to increase, with Mr Zhou saying that a late typhoon season could extend the flood season to December.

## Locals' last stand for green spot with a mucky pond

AMERICAN TIMES  
WASHINGTON

IN THE secluded western suburbs of Washington, not a million miles from the CIA headquarters at Langley, it's not presidential sex that gets them going, but "sprawl". Urban sprawl is the newly appointed Public Enemy Number One, and nothing exemplifies the fight against it better than McLean's last stand for Evans Farm.

For a month, the local press has trumpeted the cause of the 34-acre tract on the edge of the upmarket Virginia suburb of McLean. What caused the rush of media concern was a report that Ralph Evans, whose family has owned the farm for half a century, was about to sell up, and out, to developers.

This rustic haven was about to be concreted over and absorbed into "the suburbs".

The people of McLean came forward as one to regale reporters with their fond recollections of Sunday visits to the farm, of feeding the ducks, of their delight in the only green space left for miles, of the bawls that Evans Farm provided. Unable to afford a buy-out themselves, they wanted the county to buy the farm, or to slap a conservation order on it - anything to save it for "our children and their children, and their children".

My sympathies were with them all the way. In the 20 years since I first visited the Washington area, suburban development has blighted swathes of Maryland and

northern Virginia. Thousands of acres of farmland have been built on and over. The landscape between Fairfax, to the south-west of Washington, and Baltimore, to the north-east, which had been rolling agricultural land, dotted with trees and white and red clapboard barns, is no more.

Now, after a decade that has seen some of the most intensive development anywhere in the United States, it is the beneficiaries of the building who are starting to call "foul". Hooray, I thought. And it was in such a joyous frame of mind that I set off for Evans Farm. How wrong can you be. Evans Farm is a last vestige of



Animals attract children to Evans Farm Colorific

green space, but is hardly holding the line against development. It is surrounded on every side by housing developments or roads.

Inside the farm fence, the whinnying of the horses is drowned out by the constant

roar of cars. The duckpond could do with a clean, but had nothing on the henhouses, whose general state of decay would not disgrace an old Eastern-bloc zoo. The arable fields are less farm than market-garden, and neglected at that.

And, always, the whoosh of those cars...

Evans Farm has a "farm" restaurant and a clutch of shops - a gallery, and a "dollar shop" where the prices run to hundreds of dollars. There were a few visitors, mainly nannies pushing their charges in prams. A couple of children patted the bristly pigs and quacked back at the ducks but they hardly represented a quorum of locals.

Ralph Evans says the restaurant, which uses the farm produce, does not make enough money to offset his taxes, and he does not qualify for "working-farm" tax breaks. "It's like a public park," he said, "except that I pay all the bills."

Mr Evans says he has agreed the number of houses that will be built and land-

scaping that will preserve the inn and the pond. That will jack up the prices of the finished houses nicely, so the developers cannot be too displeased.

But the fact is that the bulldozers, when they come, will be less the "fault" of Ralph Evans than the logical consequence of McLean's unrestrained growth. And the "Save Evans Farm" resistance movement that has posted hand-painted signs on the approach roads and packed a local school hall with protesters, has as much interest in property values, commuting times and a "free" local attraction as it does in the landscape.

In future, I will happily add my signature to petitions for the big wide spaces of Virginia and Maryland, but I cannot make a case for saving Evans Farm.

MARY DEJEVSKY

**SIDE IMPACT PROTECTION SYSTEM, AT A PRICE THAT WON'T KNOCK YOU SIDWAYS.**

The Volvo S40 1.6. From £13,995.

For more information call 0800 11 40 40.

VOLVO. A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.



VOLVO

601 XUX

July 1998



# BUSINESS

15

## BRIEFING

### Ritblat raises stake in Selfridges

SHARES IN Selfridges, the department store retailer, edged higher yesterday as property group British Land increased its holding in the company. John Ritblat's group has acquired an additional 3.6 million shares taking its stake to 5.75 per cent. British Land first appeared on Selfridges' shareholder register two weeks ago when it picked up a 3.1 per cent stake. Mr Ritblat has said he has acquired the holding for "investment purposes".

### Flying Flowers' shares dive again

**FLYING FLOWERS**, the mail order florist, wilted further yesterday after the company confirmed that its profits would be substantially lower than last year. The shares, which stood at 592.5p in June, lost a third of their value to close at 148p after the company said full-year profits would be "not less than £5m".

This compares to £6.25m last year. The group will cut the off-the-page advertising for its troubled Gardening Direct operation by a third from this year's figure of £3m. It will focus on its database of customers instead.

Flying Flowers will give a detailed statement to shareholders with its interim results on 2 September. Nigel Smith has resigned as managing director of the company's DPA subsidiary.

### Builders' merchant sold for £121m

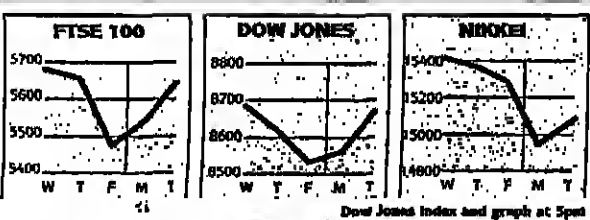
BUILDING MATERIALS group RMC is to sell its heavy-duty builders' merchants division, Hall & Co, to Wolsley for £121m. The sale, expected to be tied up in September, completes RMC's strategic disposal of its non-core activities. RMC, which has its headquarters in Egham, Surrey, this month has sold Thorpe Park leisure complex, two cement plants and several other assets in Germany.

The latest deal allows RMC to focus itself as a supplier of heavy building materials to the international construction industry.

The proceeds of the disposal will be used to reduce RMC's debts and help provide flexibility for the development of the group.

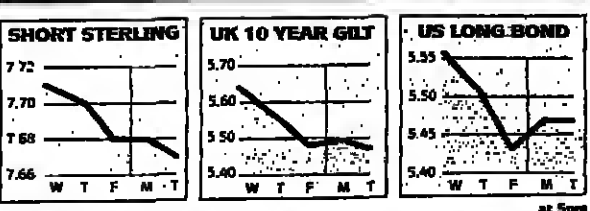
Hall & Co operates from 92 branches in the UK and reported a turnover of £180m last year.

## STOCK MARKETS



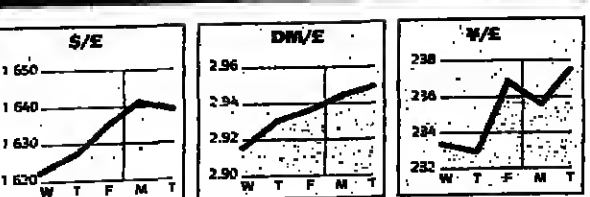
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5654.40	100.70	1.81	6183.70	4382.80	3.51
FTSE 250	5100.30	44.30	0.88	5970.90	4429.50	3.95
FTSE 350	3794.00	43.90	1.17	4269.10	3151.80	3.59
FTSE All Share	2424.13	39.65	1.65	2899.72	2108.52	3.59
FTSE SmallCap	2283.80	-3.50	-0.15	2793.80	2231.60	3.62
FTSE Fledgling	1270.00	-1.20	-0.09	1517.10	1225.20	4.05
FTSE AIM	877.50	-0.50	-0.06	1146.90	865.90	1.37
FTSE EBLCC 100	992.61	23.28	2.40	1146.90	865.90	1.37
Dow Jones	8564.19	98.61	1.15	9367.84	6971.32	1.71
Nikkei	15072.93	84.57	0.56	18886.79	14488.21	1.01
Hang Seng	7890.02	44.61	0.57	15704.08	6244.72	5.18
Dax	5371.76	136.86	2.62	6217.83	3467.24	2.59

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	7.75	0.44	7.63	5.47	-1.62	5.18	-1.82
US	5.69	-0.03	5.69	-0.34	-1.12	5.47	-1.20
Japan	0.00	0.07	0.00	-0.02	1.41	-0.86	1.94
Germany	3.48	0.20	3.66	0.01	4.16	-1.55	5.01

## CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. chg.
Dollar	1.6398	-0.20c	1.6125	0.6098	+0.10p	0.6202	0.6202
D-Mark	2.9497	+0.26p	2.9058	1.7896	+0.44p	1.8182	1.8182
Yen	237.68	+1.49	190.90	184.24	+1.12	118.76	118.76
£ index	105.60	+0.20	101.70	115.40	+0.30	105.50	105.50

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr. Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.40	0.03	18.34	GDP (US)	119.40	2.60	112.48
Gold (\$)	282.95	-1.60	325.90	RPI	163.00	3.50	157.49
Silver (\$)	5.07	-0.09	4.65	Base Rates	7.50	7.00	7.00

## TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.7249	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.99
Austria (schillings)	20.05	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2171
Belgium (francs)	58.94	New Zealand (\$)	3.1877
Canada (\$)	2.4688	Norway (krone)	12.44
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8350	Portugal (escudos)	209.84
Denmark (krone)	10.93	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9652
Finland (markka)	8.7340	Singapore (\$)	2.7365
France (francs)	9.5769	Spain (pesetas)	241.84
Germany (marks)	2.8648	South Africa (rand)	9.8521
Greece (drachma)	486.21	Sweden (krone)	13.17
Hong Kong (\$)	1.1347	Switzerland (francs)	2.3973
Ireland (pounds)	63.91	Thailand (baht)	61.22
India (rupees)	5.6168	Turkey (liras)	437556
Israel (shekels)	2829	USA (\$)	1.5989
Italy (lira)	231.53		
Japan (yen)	6.5139		
Malaysia (ringgits)	0.6241		
Malta (lira)			

# Goldman lines up poison pills to fend off predators

WALL STREET investment bank Goldman Sachs is to adopt a slew of tough poison pill defences against potential predators when it comes to the market in its \$30bn float in November.

According to the S1 registration document filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Monday, the partners and management board have put in place provisions to enable them to block any change in control without reference to outside shareholders. The board will be split into three classes of members, with one class being elected each year for three-year terms. As a result, at least two annual meetings of shareholders will be required to change a majority of directors.

The shareholders of the company can only remove directors with a 66.6 per cent majority. Any change in Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation - the US equivalent of a company's articles of association - will require an 85 per cent majority. Changes in by-laws will also require a majority not just of the shares present at the meeting but the total shares in issue.

If that fails, the board also has a "blank cheque" provision enabling them to issue unlimited amounts of preferred stock to friendly shareholders in order to

frustrate any hostile move. The belt-and-braces takeover provisions were put in to placate opponents of the float, such as John Thornton, a senior partner, who feared that listing the company would mean that the partners who have been the driving force behind Goldman would ultimately lose control of the firm.

"It was the big issue at the time when we were debating going public," one insider said. "It is a clear objective to avoid losing control of the firm."

Initially only 10 to 15 per cent of the company is expected to be sold, but once the shares are listed and the lock-in provisions expire there will be little to stop Goldman employees who retire or leave from selling.

## GOLDMAN SACHS: TOP OF THE MARKET

Mergers and Acquisitions			
	RANK	MARKET SHARE %	VALUE \$bn
Worldwide	1	23.8	1,405
Worldwide transactions over \$1bn	1	36.5	1,172
United States	1	30.7	1,098
Share offers			
	RANK	MARKET SHARE %	VALUE \$bn
Worldwide IPO's	1	15.2	47
Worldwide common stock offerings	1	14.1	103
US IPO's	1	15.1	36

There is an irony in a firm which advised on merger and acquisition deals worth nearly \$1,400bn in the last five years - about a quarter of all deals worldwide - taking such steps. To be fair, Goldman tends to act

widely through the firm and beyond its 198 partners.

Goldman has two outside shareholders, the Sumitomo Trust of Japan and an obscure Hawaiian trust, Kamehameha Activities Association, which together own 20 per cent of the firm. They have been substantial shareholders since 1994 when Goldman needed capital.

Eyebrows were raised yesterday by the large proportion of Goldman's revenues which, according to the document, come from own-account trading. The document disclosed that return on partners' capital in the first half of the year was a staggering 65 per cent pre-tax, but that will almost certainly fall when the firm floats and the valuation of the capital rises.



Pictured yesterday are (left) Ian Smith, chairman of Marsh & McLennan, and Sax Riley, chairman of Sedgwick. Peter Macdiarmid

# Sedgwick falls to American rival

SHARES IN the insurance sector raced ahead on bid talk late yesterday as the last of Britain's big insurance brokers fell to an American rival with the announcement that Sedgwick Group has agreed a takeover by Marsh & McLennan in a deal worth £125bn.

There was immediate speculation that the huge takeover deal would be quickly followed by a significant corporate move by Royal & Sun Alliance, which banking sources say is seeking a £1.5 billion loan to use either for a share buyback or an acquisition. Royal & Sun Alliance shares

the New York investment company. The buyout will mean no insurance broker of global reach will remain in British hands.

One leading industry figure said: "I think this is enormous. Having invented insurance 350 years ago, having seen so much innovation, nous and skills among insurance brokers, it's very regrettable that decisions will now be taken in New York or Dallas or Chicago."

"We have become the victims of a lack of global vision and the industry will be worse off as a result."

Sax Riley, chairman of Sedgwick, yesterday insisted the deal would benefit global clients, who now have the choice of just three global brokers. He said: "Historically you could say it is a sad day. I could ask the same question of the investment banking world. We set our stall out as a global player and to go forward we needed a partner."

Sedgwick sought the deal after years of trying to forge an alliance with Willis Corroon - an offer rebuffed by John Reeve, head of Willis Corroon.

Marsh & McLennan, the biggest broker in the world, already owns some of the

biggest brokers operating the UK such as William M. Mercer. It took over a big US rival, Johnson Higgins, 18 months ago. Its nearest rival, Aon, bought its US rival Alexander and Alexander in mid-1997. Its UK operations, Alexander Clay and Godwins, merged towards the end of last year.

The companies confirmed there would be substantial job losses where roles overlapped, but sought to reassure staff they were secure.

It is estimated around 1,000 jobs are likely to go, saving Marsh & McLennan about \$150m.

# Blue Cross to oppose BAT merger

US HEALTHCARE insurance group Blue Cross and Blue Shield, one of the groups fighting through the courts for compensation for smokers, has written to BAT Industries warning that it will oppose the £35bn merger of the group's financial services operations with Zurich Insurance of Switzerland.

Blue Cross, which is pursuing BAT Industries' US cigarette producer, Brown & Williamson, for damages, told BAT's solicitors Herbert Smith it is sending representatives to oppose the deal when it comes up for approval in the High Court next Wednesday.

The sanction of the Court is needed before BAT can go ahead with plans to split off its financial services arm and merge it with the Swiss insurer.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield, one of the leading US healthcare groups, fears the deal will complicate its attempts to secure compensation for policyholders suffering from smoking-related diseases. Fears of a large hit from the projected US legal wrangle over tobacco liabilities has been a significant drag on BAT's shares.

BAT said yesterday it had been advised that the chances of the efforts to derail the deal succeeding were slim. BAT's solicitors have told the company that under English law the deal could only be stopped by a creditor and as Blue Cross has yet to win any litigation against Brown & Williamson it is not technically a creditor at present.

BAT Industries is injecting its financial services operations, which include Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar in the UK and Farmers in the US, into Zurich Financial Services, which will be 57 per cent owned by BAT shareholders.

BAT and Zurich yesterday said that dealings in BAT Industries and Zurich Insurance would be suspended on the close of trade next Thursday. Shares in Allied Zurich, the UK-quoted vehicle for the financial services group, and British American Tobacco, BAT's tobacco arm, would start in London the following Tuesday.

# Russian debt crisis threatens rouble

THE RUSSIAN rouble was threatening to go into free fall yesterday as the failure of the new government to deliver on its promise to unveil terms of a key \$40bn debt restructuring deal further undermined the country's financial credibility.

As deadline after deadline passed for the announcement of the terms, the rouble crashed 10 per cent against the dollar to 7.88. Dealings on Russia's foreign exchange markets had to be suspended at one stage under local circuit-breaker provisions.

Western bankers were insisting that the deal had to ensure that they were not discriminated against. One source said that the Russians were planning to offer investors a choice between high-yielding rouble paper and lower-yielding dollar bonds.

Traders said local banks were taking advantage of the attempts by the central bank to pump in liquidity to dump the currency wholesale in favour of dollars. "It is getting more crazy. It is getting out of control," said David Riley at Fitch IBCA, the debt rating agency. "The idea was to have an orderly devaluation. But this is nothing of the sort."

In the midst of the crisis, three of Russia's largest banks - Menatep, Uneximbank and Most Bank - yesterday unveiled a merger deal. Further consolidation is expected as banks, many of which have been very badly hit by the devaluation, scramble to avoid collapsing under the huge debt burden they are carrying. Estimates suggested that the amount owed by Russian private sector banks to foreign counterparties could be as high as \$38bn, if off-balance sheet deals are taken into account.

Russia's central bank chief, Sergei Dubinin, seemed increasingly caught between his desire to maintain monetary discipline and his fear that unless further liquidity was pumped into the system, some of the larger banks would go to the wall and bring down what is left of Russia's shaky financial system.

Ordinary Russians were yesterday out on the streets trying to buy gold in a further sign of their dwindling confidence in their home currency and the new government.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

SHARES continued to recover, encouraged by firmer Far Eastern markets and a bright showing by New York. Footsie jumped 100.7 points to 5,654.4, and the mid cap index rallied 44.3 to 5,100.3, but the small cap was again in negative territory, falling 3.5 to 2,285.8. Rolls-Royce led the advance, rising 70.75p to 236p on its share of the BA Airbus order. Financial shares were strong on takeover hopes with the US bid Sedgwick fanning the speculative flames. Derek Pain, page 19

### NEW YORK

AMERICAN stocks rallied sharply as calm in Asian and European markets sent the Dow jumping nearly 100 points at midday, with financial stocks continuing to rebound off their recent battering. The Philadelphia Stock Exchange's bank index was up more than 15 points or 2 per cent to 768. Hildegard Zagorski, a Prudential Securities analyst said the rally came after a pretty good bearing. "The Dow Jones surged 98 points to 8,556 at midday."

### TOKYO

THE NIKKEI 225 posted a modest 0.6 per cent rise to 15,072.9 after an overnight gain in the yen and strength in New York. But dealers said trading was marked by a lack of activity that exaggerated price swings. Selling of bank stocks was aggravated after the Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, said it would not be appropriate to reveal the results of individual banks' inspections. That, traders said, would increase distrust in the sector by limiting transparency.

### FRANKFURT

GERMAN banks led a rally in European bourses, which were given a further boost by Wall Street climbing 1.3 per cent by the time European trading ended. Signs that the Russian-inspired market meltdown fears were fading were evident in Frankfurt where the big banks - Dresdner, Commerzbank and Deutsche - led the Xetra DAX computer trade index up 2.92 per cent. All three banks have suffered steep declines because of their exposure to Russia.

### MADRID

SPAIN'S Ibx index of the 35 most traded stocks gained 2 per cent to close at 9,453.3, driven largely by speculative buying in bank stocks. Shares in Spanish banks have suffered heavy losses in the past three days because of concerns about the value of their Latin American holdings after falls in Latin American stock markets. The region may yet suffer more fall-out from the Asian and Russian troubles: the Venezuelan and Brazilian currencies are seen as particularly vulnerable.



BA



# How to overpay in a takeover bid

NOT MANY contested or competing takeover bids are made these days. According to the Takeover Panel, they have fallen to just one in five of total merger activity. In the US it's even more pronounced; 1980s style contested bids are virtually unknown.

The reasons for this are well rehearsed. In a contested or competing takeover the successful bidder nearly always ends up overpaying. The chances of that happening today are greater than ever, since companies are generally more efficiently run than they were in the 1980s heyday of the contested bid, and as a consequence there's not much fat left to pay for the premium. If there's to be a recession, or the world is heading for a big economic slowdown, then the consequences of overpaying could be quite serious.

So hardly anyone's doing them. Instead, the fashion is for no premium, consolidating mergers. Despite the now infamous clash of egos that caused the Glaxo/SmithKline merger to come apart at the seams, an awful lot of them are reaching the altar.

All of which makes the battle for control of Dennis, an unglamorous



## OUTLOOK

Conventry based manufacturer of bus and fire engine chassis, an intriguing little affair. For the laconic John Simpson, chief executive of Mayflower, Dennis marks a second attempt in less than a year at the big deal - his first, a mooted bid for Vickers, stumbling before the might of VW and BMW.

This time he made it off the starting blocks only to be outbid by Henlys, which among other things makes coach bodies. On the face of it, the Henlys bid seems to make more sense commercially, since by putting its bodies together with Dennis's chassis, it can offer the whole charabanc, as it were.

Whether this justifies the heady

price it is now bidding is another matter. Certainly there's sufficient doubt in the City to send Henlys shares into a spin, undermining the value of its cash and stock offer for Dennis in the process. Without the assistance of a share support operation from Volvo, which is buying up to 10 per cent of Henlys in the market, prospects for the bid might look bleak.

Volvo's interest is a suspect one. It would not be allowed to buy Dennis directly, since the two combined would have the bulk of the UK chassis market. So it seems to have opted for the strategy of backing one of the bidders instead. The emergence of a share support operation, albeit a legal and disclosed one, makes it all seem quite like the 1980s again. Even if he could afford it, Mr Simpson would be an idiot to raise his bid. The waters are muddy enough, and Henlys is already overpaying.

## Now Americans take Sedgwick

BRITISH INSURANCE broking may not make us wave our union jacks very much, but this was one those

industries which the UK could boast was both global and made in the UK. Now the last two independent players of size in the City are following our merchant banks into foreign ownership.

The way things are going, it can only be a matter of time before the clearing banks follow suit. Sedgwick and Willis Corroon, both UK-listed companies, were third and fourth in the global market. You might have thought that would be enough to sustain them as independents, but oh no. If other industries are consolidating, insurance brokers must too.

There's quite a history to this end game. As the insurance market has sagged over the last few years, Sedgwick's chairman, Sax Riley, has been seeking a tie-up with Willis Corroon to create a giant British broker capable of standing on its own. Unfortunately, his opposite number John Reeve, refused to play ball. He was just determined to run his own show. Eventually he persuaded Kohlberg Kravis Roberts to buy him out.

Why should a client - or for that matter a colleague or a customer - care about a broker's national-

ty? Ian Smith, chairman of Marsh McLennan, says it is out of date to tag a company to the location of its headquarters. Sedgwick's business mostly involves consulting, selling and broking commercial insurance for multi-national clients; it is a global business and ownership doesn't matter.

Fair enough, but that's not what Sedgwick used to say. Up until quite recently it consistently argued that the interests of customers were best served by having more brokers, not less. Right now there are only four global brokers of any size left: Marsh McLennan, its US rival Aon, Sedgwick and the now American-owned Willis Corroon. Big commercial customers already have precious little chance to reject a broker on grounds of price or service. With three companies rather than four, the situation is unlikely to improve.

## Booker should not rush in

BOOKER, THE gently wasting away cash & carry business, has probably never felt so wanted.

After years of criticism as the company ricocheted from one disaster to another, it suddenly finds itself the subject of a three-way tug of love.

First Somerfield sidles up and proposes a merger. Then Budgens starts whispering sweet nothings, though it is to shy formally to declare its intentions. And of course there are the inevitable financial buyers waiting in the wings.

Booker may wonder why everyone suddenly wants to come a-courting. Somerfield wants to steamroller the deal through as quickly as possible. Somerfield's David Simons wants to fold Booker's buying power into his own as quickly as possible, so as to gain the benefit and keep up the momentum. He's already established with the Kwik Save takeover. Unfortunately, it is offering only a no-premium merger similar to the Kwik Save transaction.

The Budgens approach may be even less promising, though we have not yet heard the terms. With less than £400m of sales, the benefits of joint buying would be less impressive. The main asset it would bring to the party would be its management team. John von Spreck-

lesen has certainly done a good job at Budgens, but a reverse takeover would seem a rather elaborate and costly way for Booker to secure his services.

The problem for shareholders in Booker and its would-be predators is that these approaches are likely to be all-share deals at little or no premium. So they are a gamble on management's ability to make the deal work. Booker is under intense pressure to walk down the aisle with someone, even if neither prospective groom is entirely appropriate. It has no chief executive and its corner shop customers are going out of business like there's no tomorrow.

Even so, the Booker board should be careful not to sell itself short. Its supplier base is a valuable asset and its distribution chain is just about to start throwing off cash after years of investment. That might make an attractive proposition for a financial buyer in a position to pay a premium and in cash. In this market, that would be preferable to almost any bidder's paper. So while it is nice to be popular, Booker should not be surrendering to the first gentleman caller who drops by.

## IN BRIEF

### L&M chief to net £846,000 on bid

LONDON & MANCHESTER'S group chief executive, Tom Pyne, is to net some £846,000 from the sale of shares and options in the wake of last week's £750m agreed takeover of the insurance company by Friends Provident, the mutual.

The other boardroom bid beneficiary is David Newman, whose holding will be worth £571,470. Former transport secretary John MacGregor's 1,048 shares are worth £5,288. Among other staff, 66 participating in the employee scheme share a profit of around £400,000. Friends' 600p a share offer represents an 18 per cent premium to the price the day before the offer was announced.

### UBS profits

SHARES IN UBS, parent of Warburg Dillon Read, the investment bank, shrugged off a 554m Swiss franc (£231m) hit from the Holocaust settlement to soar 4 per cent in Zurich yesterday after reporting a better-than-expected first half, thanks to buoyant equity markets world-wide.

Investment banking profits were \$11.28bn (£471m), 81 per cent of the 1997 total. The group operating profit before tax was \$14.6bn, up 26 per cent. UBS, which last week cut a third of its Moscow staff, said it had lost \$120m in the latest Russian débacle.

### AMP hostile bid

AUSTRALIA'S biggest life insurance and funds management group AMP yesterday launched a hostile \$43.01bn bid for general insurer GIO Australia Holdings. AMP's bid, if successful, would be the Australian share market's highest takeover and would strengthen AMP in the general insurance sectors in Australia and New Zealand.

### AEEO pension

THE AMALGAMATED Engineering and Electrical Union yesterday launched a new pension scheme aimed at workers without access to occupational pensions, saying the "stakeholder" pension, set up in conjunction with Friends Provident, would make a "real difference" to the lives of working people. The new scheme will have low charges and workers will be able to take their pension with them if they move jobs.

### Australian gain

AUSTRALIAN regional newspaper and radio group APN News and Media saw pre-tax profits rise from A\$31.2m to A\$24.0m in the six months to 30 June 1998. The group, which is 49 per cent owned by Tony O'Reilly, the owner of The Independent, said the results were achieved under challenging trading conditions.

### Vodafone buy

VODAFONE, the UK's biggest mobile telephone company, is buying New Zealand's national GSM network, operated by BellSouth New Zealand, and related assets for about NZ\$750m.

News Analysis: The £5.5bn Airbus deal might seem to be a political fix, but it will create jobs in Europe

# BA builds bridges with Brussels

BY TERRY MACALISTER

THE DECISION by British Airways to break its commitment to Boeing and place its first-ever contract with Airbus Industrie has left sceptics wondering whether there was a political fix.

BA chief executive Bob Ayling strongly rejected this last night. He said: "The only thing that concerned us was getting the cheapest aircraft we could. If you buy for political reasons, you go bust."

The appearance of Tony Blair, Prime Minister, at the signing ceremony in Toulouse only fuelled this speculation yesterday. The official line was that Mr Blair happened to be on holiday in France and just wanted to join in the celebration.

However, the airline and aerospace sectors are intensely political. In December Mr Blair joined Chancellor Kohl in calling for European aerospace co-operation and consolidation ahead of a wider deal on the defence sector.

The £5.5 billion contract for 188 airframes from Airbus by BA helps provide the European aircraft manufacturer with a good platform for proposed restructuring.

BA also needs to rebuild some bridges in Brussels. The European transport commission has criticised BA for the dismissive way it supposedly treated regulators over its proposed alliance with American Airlines. The EC has given the formal go-ahead to the tie-up, but attached tough conditions which Mr Ayling says are too harsh.

The BA boss denied yesterday he was currying favour with the EC by placing the order with Airbus. "Life is not that simple," he insisted.

But the Airbus contract - helping to secure the future of 130,000 jobs at Airbus and its suppliers around Europe - would certainly help BA relations with the Commission.

One leading industry analyst said: "I am sure there was an element of politics in this. The



HOW AIRBUS AND BOEING SHAPE UP	
	Airbus
Total aircraft ordered	2971
delivered	1971
backlog	1200
Employees (inc. suppliers)	130,000
	Boeing
Total aircraft ordered	13969
delivered	12176
backlog	1793
Employees (inc. suppliers)	238,000

Source: Airbus and Boeing

British Aerospace workers at Filton, Bristol, (above) cheering the news that British Airways is to buy Airbus. BAe stands to gain £1.1bn in business, and Rolls Royce a further £500m for the engines. The deal was signed yesterday in Toulouse by Noel Forgeard of Airbus Industrie (top left) and Bob Ayling (top right) of BA.

fact that Tony Blair was at Airbus on the day certainly suggests this."

The coincidence that the Airbus contract was announced alongside a smaller deal for 16 Boeing 777 aircraft (with options on a further 16) also seemed to indicate a political eye was being kept on the US.

Up until now, Boeing has enjoyed a stranglehold on BA new orders. The decision to announce a smaller contract with the Seattle-based aircraft manufacturer looked like a face-saving device to many industry experts. The US is one of BA's vital markets.

Closer to home, Mr Ayling is said to enjoy good relations with the new Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson. Moreover, the Airbus contract will secure

the jobs of 38,000 staff who work for British Aerospace, Rolls Royce, and 300 smaller suppliers in the UK.

British Aerospace not only holds a 20 per cent stake in Airbus itself, but also stands to gain as much as £1.1bn in business via BA because it builds all the Airbus wings.

The BA contract with Airbus could create over £500m worth of work for Rolls Royce. The fact that the deal was won on the tightest of margins by Airbus in competition with Boeing was underlined by Mr Ayling. "We have ordered the right aircraft at the right time at the right price. This is a great investment in our future, made possible by the commercial success."

The first 21 aircraft will be



used for intra-UK and European operations by BA Regional, which employs 1,000 staff based in Manchester, Birmingham and Scotland. The rest of the aircraft will be fly out of Gatwick, or operated by the French and German subsidiaries, Air Liberté and Deutsche BA.

New aircraft will replace older equipment and provide capacity for increased passenger volumes. The airline needs the new A319 and A320 aircraft to increase efficiency and cope with tougher EU environmental regulations.

The new aircraft are up to six times quieter than existing airliners. They are also smaller and more fuel efficient, helping BA to compete against low-cost competitors like EasyJet.

Mr Ayling said: "We need to reduce our capital expenditure at a time when we need also to increase our schedules in a deregulated market."

For Airbus the contract from BA underlines the enormous progress it has made since it first opened for business 25 years ago. In 1994 Airbus won more orders than Boeing for the first time.

Airbus has already won more contracts in the first half of this year after finishing 1997 with 45 per cent of the market to Boeing's 53 per cent. The remainder went to McDonnell Douglas, now part of Boeing.

Although BA owns 10 Airbus A320s, they were bought by British Caledonian before it was taken over by BA. The latest deal for 59 firm orders

plus options for 129 others will build confidence at a vital time when Noel Forgeard, Airbus Industrie's chief executive, wants to move to a traditional company structure and ultimately bring Airbus to the stock market.

At present the Toulouse-based Airbus is termed a *Groupeement d'Interet Economique* which publishes no accounts and makes no profits or losses in its own right. These accrue to its owners - Aerospatiale of France and Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) of Germany, which each own 37.9 per cent, and BAE (20 per cent) as well as Casa of Spain (4.2 per cent).

The BA contract also comes at a critical time for Boeing, having run up its first annual

loss in 50 years. Last month it lost a lucrative contract on its home ground when US Airways placed a firm contract for seven wide-bodied A330 aircraft, took out options on a further seven and reserved delivery positions on 16 more.

A Boeing spokeswoman said last night that the company was "disappointed" but she brushed aside suggestions that the Airbus contract was a huge psychological blow.

"Market leadership is ultimately decided by long-term success. We will work hard to be lean and efficient to win the next contracts," she said.

The next test for Boeing will come later this year when Scandinavian Airline Services decides whether to choose Airbus or Boeing.

## Goldstein to head British Biotech

BRITISH BIOTECH, the drug company which has been rocked by allegations of malpractice, yesterday took another step towards rebuilding investor confidence with the appointment of a senior manager from SmithKline Beecham as its new chief executive.

Dr Elliot Goldstein, 47, a senior vice-president with the pharmaceutical giant, will replace the outgoing chief executive, Dr Keith McCullagh, at the end of September.

Dr Goldstein, who also worked for Sandoz of France, will receive a total pay package of £500,000, including a £175,000 "golden hello". He will be given 500,000 shares in the company which can be exercised in two years' time.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

His arrival will coincide with the departure of Dr Pam Kirby, British Biotech's commercial director, believed to have been an internal candidate for the post. A spokeswoman for the company said yesterday that Dr Kirby's "contractual obligations will be met". Last year, Dr Kirby received a salary of £148,000 for the eight months she worked since joining the company.

City analysts said Dr Goldstein's first task would be to restore investor confidence in the company. Shares in British Biotech have lost more than 80 per cent of their value as the company was embroiled in a bitter feud with Dr Andrew Millar, its former head of clinical research. He was sacked in April after accusing the board of issuing overoptimistic statements over two of the company's drugs, the pancreatic treatment Zalcitabine and the cancer compound Marimastat. The drugs are still awaiting regulatory approval. Yesterday the stock closed 0.5p down at 36.5p.



Elliot Goldstein: £500,000 package plus options

## Cortecs set to launch quick test for crippling bone disease

MILLIONS OF women at risk of contracting osteoporosis will be able to receive a five-minute test in their GP surgeries for the first time since the crippling syndrome was discovered, thanks to a device to be launched later this year by Cortecs Diagnostics, a Decade-based biotechnology company.

Medical experts believe that the new kit, known as Osteosol, will enable GPs to screen a large number of women quickly and cost-effectively. It could save the National Health Service hundreds of millions of pounds by reducing the need for hospital visits from women suffering from the condition.

The disease is estimated to

affect around 3 million women in Britain. Men are much less prone to the condition. Recent research showed that around one in three women over 50 is at risk of developing osteoporosis, which can be particularly painful as it eats away at the bones' texture, doctors say.

Cortecs shares are trading at a low of 46p after hitting a peak of 195.5p earlier this year. The company, which floated in London in 1994, has been rocked by a boardroom battle which led to the departure of its chairman, Glen Travers. He is suing Cortecs for £1.5m compensation.

Osteosol is similar to easy-to-use pregnancy tests. It in-

volves inserting a small urine sample into a hand-held device which is then put into a desktop reader. The kit measures the level of a biomarker which regulates bone breakdown and is able to produce a result in around five minutes.

Cortecs says that at first the test will be used to monitor the effectiveness of osteoporosis treatments such as hormone replacement therapy by measuring whether the drug is slowing the breakdown in bones.

"It will tell both doctor and patient whether the drug is effective and whether the patient is taking the drug," said John Curtis, managing director of Cortecs Diagnostics.

Mr Curtis said the test, which

will be sold to GPs for around £100, will offer doctors valuable information on ways to treat the disease. At present, women need X-ray scans known as Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DXA) to diagnose osteoporosis. The high cost of these machines - around £20,000 each - has forced many health authorities to ration tests.

Mr Curtis said Cortecs was talking to the authorities about reimbursement of the kit's costs to lighten the load on GPs' funds.

He added that the company is carrying out tests on the use of the kit to predict onset of the disease. If these are successful, Osteosol could be used on young women to assess the risk of contracting the condition.



**THE INDEPENDENT**  
Wednesday 26 August 1998

source: **Bloomberg**  
[www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)



# Rolls hitches a ride on flying Footsie

**ROLLS-ROYCE**, the aero-engine group battered and bruised by the Asian crisis and the strong pound, climbed 20.75p to 238p following British Airways' decision to fly Airbus.

As the stock market continued to recover from Red Friday, Rolls drew encouragement from the £800m (£510m) it will gain if BA takes up all its Airbus order and from the possibility that it will also be involved in the Boeing remnant of the deal.

Rolls, with interim results due tomorrow, is the subject of a fierce analytical debate. Some believe the group is allowing its profit margins to be squeezed too tightly, relying on the expectation that it will capture the renewal and servicing contracts for its engines. Bruce MacDonald at BT Alex Brown believes this after-market strategy is "highly risky". He expects tomorrow's figures to show a double-digit sales increase but margins falling again. Profits are likely to emerge at around £15m against £16m.

Rolls shares peaked at 304.5p in May. Fears that Asian orders are being cancelled or deferred and that



DEREK PAIN

sterling is having a dramatic impact have prompted the dive.

British Aerospace, with 20 per cent of Airbus Industrie, rose 10p to 430p and BA, expressing relief that its ageing Boeing fleet was being replaced, put on 6.5p to 503p.

Footsie achieved a 100.7-point gain to 5,854.4. It is comfortably above the level hit on Friday when fears of a worldwide crash devastated sentiment.

The mid cap index also perked up, gaining 44.3 to 5,100.3, but the poor old small cap players were again in the doldrums with the

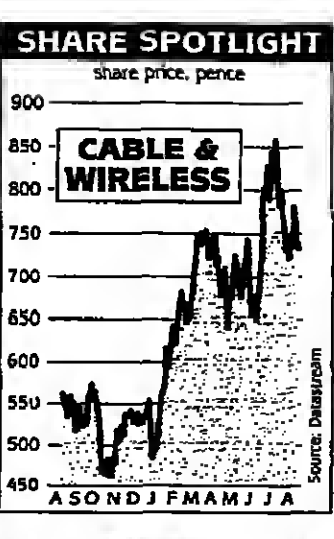
small cap index falling 3.5 to 2,285.3.

Firm Far Eastern markets and a strong New York display during London hours helped the stock market recovery.

Cable & Wireless missed the message. The shares fell 11p to 723p after CSFB downgraded its profit forecast because of the group's exposure to the struggling Hong Kong economy. The investment house cut current year's estimates by £90m to £1.6bn and next year's by £20m to £1.8bn.

HSBC, the banking group, also failed to join the rally. It was ruffled as a block of shares came on offer, falling 7p to 1,367p.

Another financial takeover bid helped sentiment. Just weeks after long-time bid target Willis Corroon collected a US strike, the Sedgwick insurance broking group has received a very full offer from Marsh & McLennan, the US giant. Aon, another big US group, could, runs the feeling, be tempted to try to counter the US bid for Willis. Sedgwick shot ahead 70.5p to 211p and Willis, which has agreed a deal with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the break-



up specialist, firmed 2.5p to 213p.

Abbey National improved 19p (after 42p) to 1,117p following positive comments from Schroders. And Schroders voting shares jumped 105p to 1,540p as takeover hopes persisted.

The Sedgwick deal drew attention to other financials, with Royal & Sun Alliance gaining 27p to 558p. BAT Industries rose 20.5p to

647.5p. It is expected that dealings in the demerged, separately listed British American Tobacco and Allied Zurich financial group will start on 8 September.

Cairn Energy slumped 30p to 130.5p, lowest for more than three years, following disappointing figures and the failure of much progress to be made in Bangladesh.

Flying Colours wilted 78.5p to 148p after producing another profit warning. The shares were almost 60p two months ago. Dawson International, the clothing group, fell 5.5p to 16p after failing to find a bidder. The shares hit 211p in 1994.

Railtrack was back on the right lines with a 56p advance to 1,457p following an investment presentation. Albright & Wilson, the chemical group, was back in the takeover spotlight. A few weeks ago the shares enjoyed a giddy run, but the speculators found they had lit on the wrong target. The shares rose 10.5p to 124.5p as the boys in dark glasses gave them another whirl.

Phytopharm, the drugs group seeking treatments from plants, climbed a 15p to 144.5p following its deal with Pfizer, the US giant, and

a forecast that the shares will hit 200p from Panmure Gordon.

Selfridges, the department store hived off from Sears, firmed 3.5p to 248.5p as British Land lifted its presumably hostile stake to 5.75 per cent, buying a further 3.64 million shares.

Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, again hit a brick wall, slipping 1p to 189.5p. Figures are due towards the end of next month. Travis Perkins, the builders' merchant, lost 29p to 394p on a stock overhang.

Torotrak, the transmissions group, continued to seek a level, falling another 7.5p to 177.5p. Yumura, the wall coverings group where tycoon Trevor Hemmings is stake-building, hardened 21p to 145p.

Emerald Energy was one of the heaviest traded shares, with Seaq putting volume at 12.7 million. The price shaded 0.5p to 7p as rumours continued about the results of its Colombian drilling, which should have been completed last week.

SECTOR, a drinks dispenser maker, slumped 91 per cent to 4p on its return from suspension. Trading in the shares was halted while it put together the sale of its Fob-Stop dispensing equipment, which is aimed at cutting pub beer loss when kegs are changed.

The market now regards Selector as a shell company, an attitude which drew an angry response from chief executive Ronan Levy. He said: "We have real activity and real customers". The company intends to develop its drink dispensing operations and is looking for acquisitions.

CADORA is raising £2.3m through a rights issue. The cash is needed because conversions and disposals of its old Footsie chain. But its Capolito Roma fashion chain is doing well and looking for acquisitions. The shares fell 0.75p to 2.25p and the nil paid rights traded at 0.06p to 0.12p.

## Glamour deals add to Aggreko's solid start

**HIRING OUT** power and ventilation equipment to industry may not set the pulse racing, but Aggreko has proved a solid performer in the sector since it was spun out of Christian Salvesen last September.

From an initial price of just over 160p following demerger, the shares rose to 226.5p in May and have only recently shaded down in line with the market.

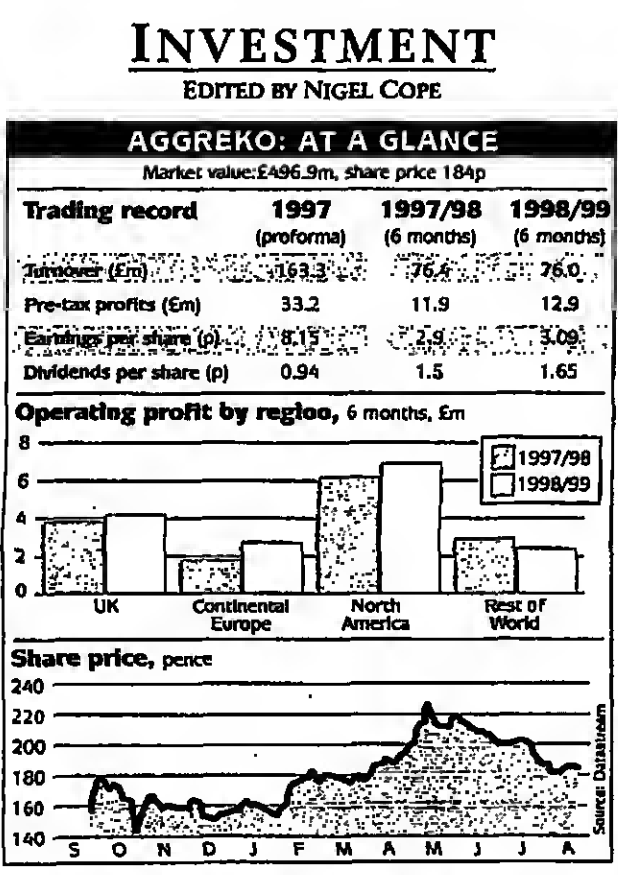
Chris Masters, the chief executive, has been busy building margins and return on capital across the group. Yesterday's half-year figures showing a 12 per cent rise to £12.9m was just reward for a solid performance.

There have even been a few glamour contracts on the way. After last year's dabble with Hollywood blockbusters, which saw it provide the equipment for the making of the film Titanic, the first half has seen contract wins for the World Cup and others lined up for the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia next month.

The city likes Aggreko because of its wide geographic spread, which means no single region dominates earnings. In the UK, Dr Masters has sensibly been preparing for the downturn by taking out costs. In the US the market is competitive, and margins slipped as Aggreko chased sales, but contracting out remains a growth market there. Five new depots opened in the first half with the same number scheduled for the rest of the year. In the Far East exposure is minimal.

The introduction of oil-free compressors is going ahead in the UK and Europe. These machines, which can cost £200,000 to buy, are popular in the food and electronics sectors as they emit no particles of oil in the air pumped out.

Analysts expect the business to grow at 10 per cent a year and be one of the more resilient performers in a downturn. But it is not entirely immune: a serious slump in manufacturing would hurt the business, whose rating leaves no margin for error. On Bescon Gregory's full-year forecast of £37m, the shares, unchanged at



184 yesterday, trade on a forward rating of 21 - too high to chase at these levels, but a decent hold.

### Kalon painted into a corner

**TOUGH MARKET** conditions have painted Kalon into a corner. The UK's largest paint maker has been hit by a double whammy of slowing demand, especially among retailers, and increased buying power from the large do-it-yourself chains.

Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), its biggest rival, responded to the challenge with a fierce price-cutting campaign which put a dampener on Kalon's sales. To make matters worse, a bout of unseasonably bad weather in France, Kalon's other core market, deterred DIY enthusiasts and added to the slowdown.

Factor in a £1.9m currency

### Identity crisis at Hambro

**HAMBRO COUNTRYWIDE**, it seems, is unhappy with its identity. Traditionally it has been seen as a "soured up" estate agent. But directors are now desperate to get away from the estate agency tag and want the business to be redefined as a life office or "other financial".

Should shareholders care? Part of the company's identity crisis may stem from a desire to disassociate itself from the housing market. Between 1993 and 1996 its shares underperformed the market by up to 40 per cent as the effects of the downturn hit. As the housing market picked up between 1995 and 1997, so did its shares. Yesterday, its price was marked down by more than 5 per cent, from 96p to 90.5p, as the City digested a fall in revenues from housing transactions.

The company has deliberately looked askance at a desperate battle for market share among some agents, which have dropped fees on house sales to as low as £500. Hambro Countrywide, keeping its fees at around £1,400, conducted transactions on just 40,588 properties in the first six months, a 10 per cent fall. But most of Hambro Countrywide's profits come from other financial services - selling life insurance and pensions through its estate agency.

The trouble is, few people go into an estate agent to buy life insurance unless they are also buying a house. So even this business is vulnerable to the housing cycle.

Analysts forecast earnings per share for 1998 of 10p, giving a forward p/e of nine on yesterday's close. For housing pessimists, though, this still looks unattractive.

loss, and yesterday's 14 per cent fall in interim profits to £21m should cause no surprise. Prospects are also rather bleak as Kalon itself admits that market conditions will remain tough in the second half. The expected slowdown in the UK housing market will add to Kalon's woes.

It is not all doom and gloom, though. The fact that Kalon has managed to retain high margins, way ahead of ICI's, is proof of management's ability to deliver efficiencies despite the poor trading environment.

Market share outside the UK has also held steady during the half, and turnover in constant currency terms was actually up 4.8 per cent. And if Kalon's promises of sales-boosting overseas acquisitions are kept, growth for the year should remain relatively solid. The shares have come down a long way since their year high of 193p reached last April, and after yesterday's 5p slide they

### IN BRIEF

**Profits rise at Irish Permanent**  
IRISH PERMANENT, Ireland's biggest home loan provider, yesterday reported a higher-than-expected rise in first half pre-tax profit and forecast strong growth ahead on the back of a buoyant economy.

"The Irish economy is performing exceptionally well and, of course, 90 per cent of our business is focused on the Irish market," Roy Douglas, the chief executive, said. "We anticipate continuing strong growth."

The financial services group reported a 20.5 per cent rise in first half pre-tax profit to £13.1m Irish pounds, and a 26.4 per cent increase in earnings per share to 24.4p, both exceeding analysts' expectations.

**Cairn dives**  
SHARES IN Cairn Energy plummeted yesterday after it reported interim operating profits down from £7.4m to £5.3m. There was also disappointing news from Bangladesh. The shares were down by 31p to 130.5p as Cairn chief executive, Bill Gammell, said it had only received a partial licensing award in Bangladesh. Cairn now hopes to join forces with Shell in Rajasthan.

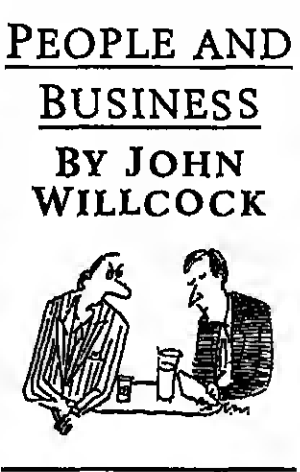
**BBA buys in US**  
ENGINEERING GROUP BBA has bought US aviation company Airwork for \$52m (£31.7m) from UNC. Airwork, based in Millville, New Jersey, is an independent repairer of air turbine engines, landing gear and propellers for business and regional aviation. BBA expects Airwork to be earnings enhancing in its first full year.

**Asda Property**  
SHARES IN Asda Property fell 1p to 143.5p despite the company reporting pre-tax profits up 38 per cent to £8.7m for the half to 30 June.

The chairman, Manny Davidson, said the group "has substantial cash resources", adding that it remained "confident of a good performance for the full year and in the longer term".

## Lesser spotted hairy high flyers

**PEOPLE AND BUSINESS**  
BY JOHN WILLCOCK



AT LAST it can be revealed: if you really want to be rich, wear a yellow checked tie with a bespoke suit, drive an open top Jaguar, take Archie Norman as your role model - and whatever you do, don't wear a beard.

These are the conclusions of the 1998 British Business Leadership Survey by KPMG Management Consulting, which polled over 200 board directors of companies with turnovers exceeding £50m.

The survey reveals several differences between high-flying business leaders - those managing companies with a growth in profitability of 30 per cent plus - and lower achievers whose companies have no growth in profits.

As well as the obvious stuff - high flyers tend to be ambitious, self-confident risk-takers - KPMG also found that low achievers are far more likely to wear beards than their more successful rivals.

Can it really be that simple? Well, looking outside the survey, I notice there's John Sunderland, who took over as chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes last year, shaved his beard off and watched the shares soar.

In contrast, Jim Hodgkinson led New Look, the women's fashion chain, to the market earlier this year at 165p. Yet the bewhiskered chief executive has seen New Look's shares fall since, closing yesterday at 130p.

Some City folk seem to wear whiskers with impunity, such as Kierin Murphy, the director of corporate finance at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson who masterminded Lafarge's bid for Redland. There is also our very own columnist, Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs - but he's an economist, and therefore above such considerations.

Of the most famous bearded heroes, Richard Branson is reckoned to be the UK's best business leader by 55 per cent of the survey's less successful leaders. Only 37 per cent of the more successful leaders gave the Virgin man the thumbs-up.

A significant 37 per cent of the more successful leaders voted

for the clean-shaven Archie Norman, former Asda boss and Tory MP while only 22 per cent of the less successful went for him.

Finally, let us turn to KPMG itself. The chairman of KPMG's London region, Gerry Acher, has framed on his office wall a 1987 letter offering him his first job at the firm, in which his future boss notes that young Mr Acher was wearing a beard at his interview.

"Will you kindly make arrangements for this to be removed," the letter says. Mr

Acher caved in, shaved and enjoyed a meteoric career.

Then last year Mr Acher took his Aston Martin DB5 on a classic car rally from Peking to Paris. A "rather rakish" beard reappeared on the Acher chin, and remains there. Faced with his own firm's evidence, how long can he hold out against the razor?

ABN AMRO said yesterday that the chairman of its Global Equity Directorate, Icke Hamilton, has decided to leave the Bank "to pursue his interests in the corporate/industrial sector".

According to a friend Mr Hamilton, 53, "just stopped enjoying it" despite making a pile of money and will now probably pick up a number of non-executive directorships.

Mr Hamilton joined ABN AMRO in 1995 when it bought Alfred Berg, the Scandinavian investment bank of which he was then chief executive.

Swedish-born, Mr Hamilton currently commutes between Scandinavia and the Smoke. He will be replaced by Nick Bannister, a former head of sales and research at UBS headhunted by Hoare Govett in 1993. Mr Bannister is already head of equities for Europe, Middle East and Africa, and has been sharing an office with Mr Hamilton for a couple of years. In this time they rebranded all ABN AMRO's equity businesses into one entity, with just Chicago, Alfred Berg and Hoare Govett Corporate Finance to go.

Colleagues describe Mr Bannister as energetic and a keen point-to-point rider. No doubt ABN's equity business will get a good crack of the whip.

WHAT DID you feel the first time you switched on a PC for the very first time? A BT survey says the most common emotion was "to be excited" (44 per cent). The next was "baffled" (40 per cent); 15 per cent were scared, 5 per cent bored and 3 per cent disappointed.

Just 1 per cent felt nothing at all. I think I've felt all these over the years, ending up with the last one.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			
Australia	2.8432	2.8384	2.8301	0.6098
Austria	10.752	20.711	20.638	1.7339
Canada	60.627	60.603	60.201	1.7341
Denmark	11.719	11.569	11.571	1.7341
ECU	1.4337	1.4305	1.4287	1.7341
Finland	8.9669	8.9641	8.9584	1.7341
France	6.5637	6.5637	6.5637	1.7341
Germany	2.9323	2.9324	2.9324	1.7341
Greece	303.29	303.29	303.29	1.7341
Hong Kong	12.1630	12.1630	12.1630	1.7341
Italy	1.7158	1.7158	1.7158	1.7341
Japan	299.24	299.24	299.24	1.7341
Malaysia	6.9184	6.9184	6.9184	1.7341
Mexico	15.726	15.726	15.726	1.7341
Netherlands	3.3144	3.3144	3.3144	1.7341
New Zealand	3.3294	3.3294	3.3294	1.7341
Norway	12.897	12.897	12.897	1.7341
Portugal	206.48	206.48	206.48	1.7341
Saudi Arabia	6.1524	6.1524	6.1524	1.7341
Singapore	2.9076	2.9076	2.9076	1.7341
South Africa	10.4266	10.4266	10.4266	1.7341
Spain	169.376	169.376	169.376	1.7341
Sweden	13.563	13.563	13.563	1.7341
Switzerland	4.4693	4.4693	4.4693	1.7341
US	1.6998	1.6998	1.6998	1.7341

INTEREST RATES				
UK	Germany	US	Japan	Other
Base	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	8.50%
1 month	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	8.50%
3 months	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	8.50%
6 months	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	8.50%
1 year	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	8.50%

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Long Gilt	Sep-98	111.23	110.96	111.06
Short Gilt	Sep-98	104.79	104.80	104.80
German Bund	Sep-98	112.83	112.76	112.76
Italian Bond	Sep-98	123.43	123.40	123.40
Japan Govt Bd	Sep-98	134.90	134.80	134.80
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.33	92.35	92.35
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.35	92.35	92.35
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.35	92.35	92.35
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.35	92.35	92.35
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	92.35	92.35	92.35

INDUSTRIAL METALS									
Alme (5/tonne)	Cash	Chg	3 month	Chg	6 months	Chgs			
Aluminum HG	1329.5	1330.5	-5.00	1350	1351	-4	454959	-1675	
Aluminum Alloy	1147	1152	-5.00	1180	1182	-5	71920	44.0	
Copper A	1633	1634	4.00	1641	1642	0	295675	3350	
Lead	528.5	529.5	0.00	530	530	0	116550	-75	
Nickel	4075	4075	-23.00	4140	4145	-25	58823	-126	
Zinc	5950	5960	0.00	5460	5465	-15	7210	260	
Zinc	1023	1024	3.50	1044	1044.5	2.5	37110	-1600	
PRECIOUS METALS									
100 fin/5% per oz	Day's Year's	pm fin/5% per oz	Day's Year's	Coins (\$)	Year's				
Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg	Chg				
Palladium	366.00 1.50-46.00	Palladium	272.5 0.10-45.35	King's tons	291.45 -32.75				
Rhodium	2200.00 92.00	Rhodium	176.90 0.10 53.30	Stones	41.73				
Silver	5.07-09.45	Silver	3.09-06.02	0.28	Nobles	386.05			
Gold	283.05-1.45-46.95				Maple Leaf	295.45 +36.82			
AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM									
Cocoa	Coffee	Barley	Potatoes	Lge Potatoes					
LIFFE 5/tonne	LIFFE 5/tonne	LIFFE 5/tonne	LIFFE 5/tonne	LIFFE 5/tonne	LIFFE 5/tonne				
Sept88 1019.00	Sept88 1675.50	Sept88 68.00	Nov88 86.00	Apr98 344.50	Nov88 524.5k				
Nov88 1058.00	Nov88 1700.00	Nov88 70.15	Mar99 115.00	Mar99 375.00	Mar99 531.00				
Jan99 1570.00	Jan99 1570.00	Jan99 72.25	Apr99 175.00	Sept98 531.00					
0 Vol:	0 Vol:	0 Vol:	0 Vol:	0 Vol:	0 Vol:				
White Sugar*	Freight	Wheat	Corn*	Soya Beans*					
LIFFE 5/tonne	LIFFE 5/tonne	LIFFE 5/tonne	CBOI Cents/bush	CBOI 5 1/2 bush					
Dec88 334.00	Apr98 515.00	Nov88 70.25	Nov88 21.50	Nov88 28.50					
Nov88 334.50	Nov88 850.00	Nov88 71.50	Dec88 21.50	Mar98 27.50					
Mar99 238.50	Oct98 950.00	Jan99 72.25	Dec98 21.50	Sept98 50.00					
0 Vol:	0 Vol:	0 Vol:	0 Vol:	0 Vol:					
OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM									
Act. Live Cattle	(CME) \$/40 lb	59.10	Dec. White Mide	(SOF) \$/100 mt	703.20				
Act. Pork Bellies	(CME) \$/50 lb	32.25	Act. Rubber	(COM) \$/ 50 lb	700.50				
Act. Orange Juice	(CTM) \$/15 lb	110.75	Dec. Cotton	(MTC) \$/50 lb	10.45				
Act. Milk	(CST) \$/50 lb	...	Sept. Cane Palm	(RLC) \$/25 m	2507.00				
Act. Oats	(CBT) \$/50 lb	117.75	Act. Soyas Oil	(COT) \$/50 lb	24.20				
Act. Rice	(WCB) \$/20 mt	306.50	Act. Wheat	(MTC) \$/500g	1255.00				



## SPORT

Rodolfo Hecht, European super league's front man, says he has football's interests at heart. Interview by Nick Harris

## The man behind the plan to change football forever

RODOLFO HECHT, the architect of the proposed European super league, said yesterday he had "absolute confidence" that the tournament would be up and running by the summer of 2000.

"Until we had the final shape of the concept, we didn't want to go public with it," he said at the central London offices of Brunswick, the public relations company which represents his Milan-based marketing and sports rights company, Media Partners.

"Now I definitely have that confidence [that the league will go ahead] and the mandate from the clubs [we have approached to join]."

Hecht met with Europe's leading clubs, including Manchester United and Arsenal, in London on Monday and now feels his ambition of the last three years is close to becoming a reality.

Hecht was born in Rome in 1954, the son of Gianni, a film producer who won an Oscar in the 70s for *The Garden of Finzi*. His father went bankrupt and so he took "menial" jobs to help the family for several years.

In 1981, he joined Fiat, and then a merchant bank. Later he went on to work as a sports marketing strategy manager for Fininvest, the holding company of the Italian media mogul Silvio Berlusconi's empire, before starting Media Partners, of which he is president, in 1992.

Berlusconi, a former Italian Prime Minister who also owns Milan of the Italian Serie A, is not directly involved in Media Partners, according to Hecht, although he is one of a number of businessmen who would be likely to exploit the possibilities a super league would offer to television companies.

"I feel grateful to Berlusconi - many of my team learned a lot of the value of business from him, but that's as far as it goes," Hecht said.

The super league, according to Hecht, would consist of 32 teams in two divisions, and there would also be a knock-out cup, the Pro Cup. ESL games would be played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - and thus not unduly interfere with domestic league programmes. Each club would play a minimum of 15 games per season (playing each of the others once, home or away but not both, to be decided by a ballot)

and a maximum of 22 games (the top eight sides in each division would play round-robin or knock-out stages, a maximum of seven extra games).

In terms of financial benefits, Hecht said that each of the 32 ESL teams would be guaranteed an average of £16.8m per year. Teams in the latter stages and those which attracted higher audiences would receive more but, compared with the £6.5m Manchester United received from Europe last season, the figures may seem attractive to some.

The second competition, the Pro Cup, will feature at least another 56 teams in a knock-out tournament broadly similar to the current Uefa Cup. Again, said Hecht, participation will be based on performances in domestic competitions. He added that "at least" six further English clubs would be able to take part in the Pro Cup.

In response to criticisms that certain countries - the former Soviet republics and Europe's smaller nations in particular - may miss out, Hecht said:

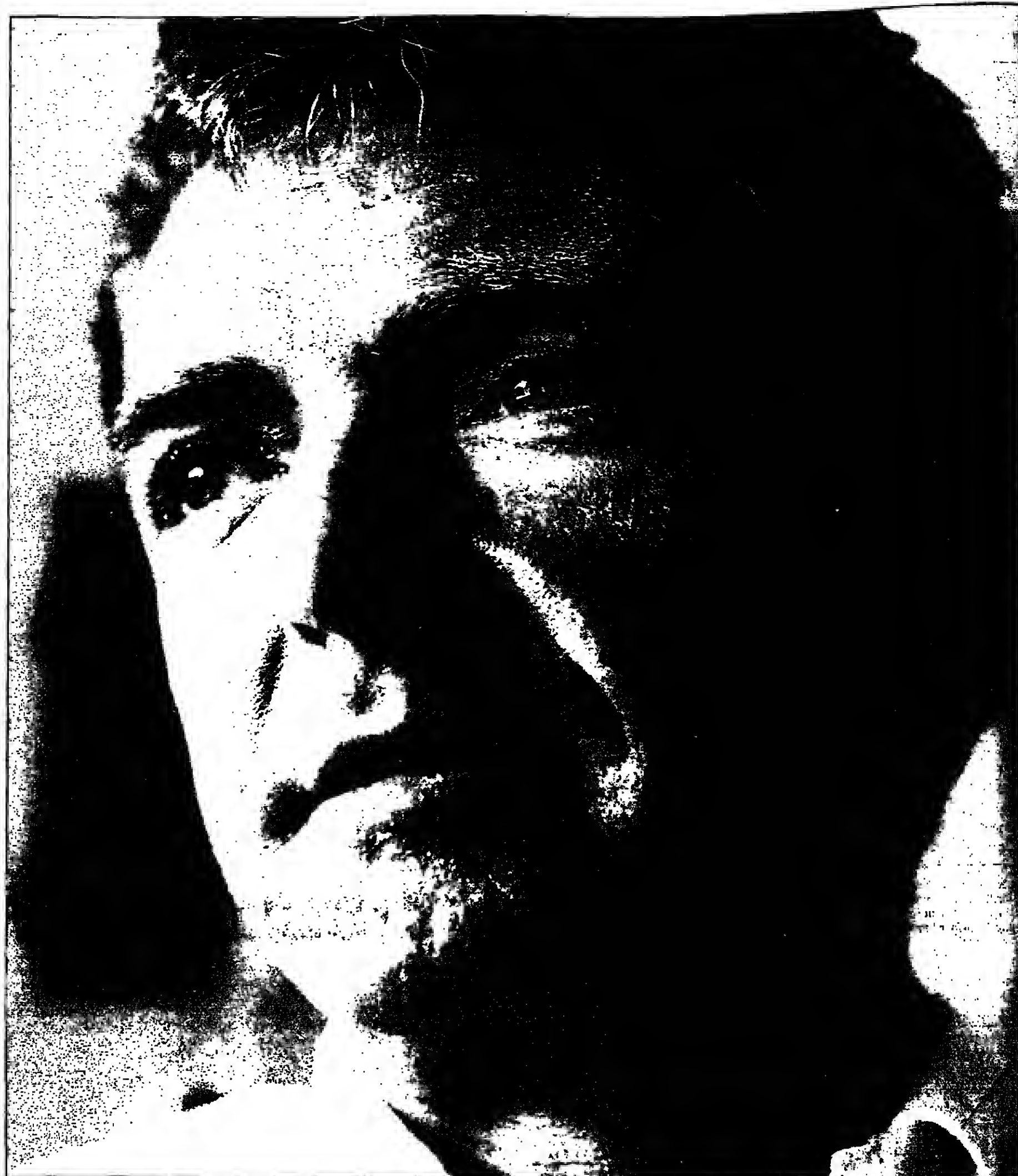
*"I am in love with football... ESL started as a hobby to see if we could develop something better for the clubs and the fans"*

"We have no desire to exclude anyone. It is the clubs that are leading this."

He said all plans were flexible and negotiable within the current framework. In response to suggestions that the continent's haves will only become further financially polarised from the have-nots and that football fans will ultimately be losers, he said: "The fans have been fuelled by a caricature of this project."

He added that Media Partners' proposals were completely transparent, and that, after meetings with individual leagues - he will address all Premier League clubs at a meeting on 3 September - he was confident that his company is offering something that Uefa currently is not.

The main source of Media Partners' revenue will be television deals, and Hecht confirmed he had already made contact with the major television operators - including Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB - that would be interested in broadcasting the ESL and, although no contracts have yet been signed, Hecht said: "I can assure you that not one penny of this competition has been promised to anyone. All



Rodolfo Hecht has 'absolute confidence' that a super league will be operating by the summer of 2000 after meeting Europe's leading clubs

David Ashdown

the [television] rights of this competition will be open to bids."

He added, however, that he is confident deals can be done. "There have been contacts [with Sky and others]. More in terms of brainstorming to see if we're configuring the competition in the right way. Saying: 'Would you be ready to do this and when?'"

"We are in touch with the world's largest broadcasters, but we want the product to reach the market untouched."

He maintained that many games will still be available on free terrestrial television, but said that his plans will involve different forms of access to the tournaments currently staged by Uefa.

"The Champions' League is using only the free TV piece of the media spectrum," Hecht said, adding that pay-per-view, digital TV, and multimedia projects involving the Internet are all possibilities.

So what do Media Partners get from the deal?

"We are the marketing agents," said Hecht, adding that his company would take five per cent (or £40m) of the projected £820m revenues each year. He added that his company would also give five per cent per year to youth football in Europe.

Hecht's love of football stems from his university days watching Milan. "I am a guy in love with football and have a bunch of partners who are in love with football," he said. "The ESL started as a hobby to see if we could develop something better for the clubs and the fans."

What he has developed is potentially the highest change European football has seen, and whether or not it will work depends on several factors. Even as Hecht was outlining his proposals yesterday, a meeting was taking place, in Geneva, of the Professional Leagues Committee - the heads of the major European

Leagues, including Peter Leaver, chief executive of the Premier League - to discuss the future of European football competitions.

The committee, set up over a year ago to make representations to Uefa about how domestic leagues feel European tournaments should be run, has long felt there needs to be more equitable distribution of revenue for participating clubs. The committee also feels clubs should have greater opportunities to negotiate television deals for themselves.

At present, the clubs in the Champions' League receive around 55 per cent of revenues and Uefa operates an effective monopoly on European club football. Yesterday's meeting in Geneva had been called a "fact-finding mission" by the Premier League, but it is understood that most of those present, especially Peter Leaver and his Italian counterpart, Franco Carraro, have known detailed information about Media

Partners' plans for some months. Leaver said in a radio interview yesterday that he wanted any Premier League clubs take part in European tournaments to do so under Uefa's auspices. It is therefore most likely that the committee will decide to use the threat of non-Uefa league as a stick with which to beat Uefa into submission.

There still remains the possibility, however, that - should Uefa not come up with radical changes to its tournaments - that clubs approached by Media Partners will be attracted to their set-up. It is also understood that the clubs, including Manchester United and Arsenal, have received legal advice from the European Commission in Brussels that they are within their rights to join a breakaway, while not at threat from being thrown out of their domestic leagues.

Uefa, which will hold its executive committee meeting on Saturday in

Monaco, having possibly called an emergency meeting of leading clubs on Friday, is expected to move quickly to kill off threats of a Media Partners-run league. Europe's football ruling body has already reportedly refused Media Partners' offer to work in tandem on European competitions and is considering an expansion of the Champions' League and a revamped Cup competition instead.

It will have a large body of support, simply because many clubs will not want to change the status quo as long as Uefa is flexible. The main bone of contention will be money. The clubs - assuming they are confident Media Partners can deliver - may be tempted by huge leaps in income.

They will also want to know if Media Partners can deliver the goods, why can't Uefa? The answer to that will be discussed around Europe all week.

## Hoddle's right approach

Sir: Glenn Moore, in his column entitled "Hoddle's evasive defence on issue of trust and truth", has lost touch with reality.

In a time when football is coming down with money, is analysed *ad infinitum* from every conceivable camera angle and is inflating itself ever more with its own self-importance, it is incumbent on responsible reporters to take a step back and keep a sense of perspective.

The only parallel between Glenn Hoddle and President Clinton is that they are both in headlines currently. So what if Hoddle gave a different, and altogether more believable, version of events surrounding Gazza in his book? On the eve of World Cup matches, to have done anything other than play

down the story would have stirred up a hornet's nest of sensation and adverse publicity. Any public figure knows that, these days, to be cagey, evasive and mendacious, occasionally, with the media is the only way to stay ahead.

ARTHUR PATES  
Totting  
London

Sir: Muttiah Muralitharan yet again showed what a real off-spinner looks like by turning the ball at right angles unlike Robert Croft. One cannot categorise Croft as an "off-spinner". Croft cannot spin the ball at all. Maybe he could be classed

as a gentle "up and down" bowler: I am very surprised to see that England continue to select him despite his obvious lack of ability. Croft cost England the game in the final of the triangular series.

HAREEN MARCELLINE  
Stoneywood Road  
Dyce

Sir: The other day I saw a sticker on a car window saying "BE the official fuel of the World Cup Squad!" Either BP fuel is a performance enhancer - in which case it is illegal. Or it is NOT - in which case you'd think they'd keep quiet about it! THE REV CHRIS GARRETT  
Thornton Heath

Sir: Last Saturday, as is my wont, I ventured down to the local bookmaker's armed with a sizeable proportion of my wage packet. All week, superb racing from York had been on the television, but as I am part of the working class I was unable to enjoy the viewing or the betting. Therefore by Saturday I was champing at the bit to have a good bet and watch some quality horses.

Instead what did I get? Some atrocious racing from Sandown, Ripon, Chester, Lingfield, Market Rasen etc, which made betting unwise and unenjoyable because of the appalling standard or the ridiculously small fields.

Whoever claims to be in control of racing nowadays should make sure that Saturdays - the day that the majority of the non-titled section of the public get off - host the best of the week's racing and not hold it in midweek when only the privileged or the unemployed are able to watch and bet.

TIM CANDY  
Cardiff

Sir: Why has it once again taken the England cricket selectors until the last Test of the summer before opting for the player who is most likely to solve their long-term middle-order batting problems?

I care not a jot about the fact that Ben Hollioake has been out of form with his county, Surrey, this season. In the words of the mighty Ian Botham: form is temporary, class is permanent.

It was barely a year ago that Hollioake the younger was single-handedly winning the Benson and Hedges Cup final for Surrey with one of the great one-day innings.

But, more than that, he has proved himself as a more than adequate all-rounder when touring with the England A team.

Holioake is the future, so enough of this pussyfooting around with the likes of his broth-

er Adam, Mark Ealham or Ronnie Irani. Who cares if it takes him a while to get into his stride - look at the chances Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash have been given to establish themselves in the set-up?

Of course, picking match-winners in the last game of the series is nothing new for England. Remember Devon Malcolm? He was called up only for the last Test at against South Africa on the tour before last and responded with nine wickets in the second innings at The Oval. If not, what about Phil Tufnell, who spun a vicious web to earn England a drawn series against the West Indies. Please, England, if you are going to win the Ashes you must start with your best line-up in Australia, not wait until the series is all over. That line-up includes young Hollioake. M GREGORY  
Chipping Sodbury

## SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

BE  
CHECK  
YOUR  
CHECK  
FREE



# Richmond's ground for optimism

RUGBY UNION  
BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

RICHMOND WERE not even allowed to set foot on the grass of their new ground when they visited it yesterday. They may have thought they had a good idea of what they were in for when they decided to up sticks and head west in search of rugby fortune. After the trials, tribulations and thorough bloody-mindedness of Richmond Borough Council, who seemed to block the club's every plan to take their decrepit and run down Athletic

Ground headquarters into the 21st Century, a deal to share Reading Football Club's magnificently appointed £37m Madejski Stadium seemed the perfect solution. And it probably still is.

But there were one or two shocked faces when first their Wales international lock, Craig Quinell, then their chief executive, Tony Hallett, were each in turn told, in no uncertain manner to "get off the grass" by the protective groundsman.

They did so pdq. And who can blame them? After all the condition

of the pitch is vital. And if there is any unnecessary or gratuitous damage it is likely that the work to make it good again will mean a rise in their rent. Since that is around £15,000 per match day there is little likelihood of Richmond wanting to see any hike in it for a while. And, anyway, they were not the only ones not allowed on the grass. The presence of a falconer and his Harris Hawk ensured that not even a pigeon could set foot on the hallowed turf.

It has to be said that Richmond have themselves a stunning facility. The marketing department must be

salivating at the prospect of selling corporate hospitality and tables in the exclusive 120-seat restaurant. In comparison with their previous facilities this is Super League.

As their millionaire backer Ashley Levett said: "In the professional era Richmond at the Athletic Ground was a dead duck." He added: "One of the sorriest sights for me last winter came on one of the coldest nights of the year. We had an evening match with Leicester. We had had problems arranging the fixture as it was. Then it began raining at half-time and people began

leaving the ground. We had tried and failed to get planning permission to put up a cover on a temporary stand and to see everyone going at that point, that was the last straw for me. I knew we had to move."

It turned out to be a canny move. Their main sponsors are software giants Oracle, whose UK headquarters are on a nearby industrial park. The proximity prompted Oracle's bosses to renew their contract with the club a year ahead of schedule. As a result Richmond have landed a £1.5m windfall in a three-year deal.

Whether they can coax the hard core membership to ferry their allegiance the 40-odd miles along the M4 is still to be ascertained. "The uptake of season tickets is about half what we finished up with last year," Hallett admitted, "while the membership interest is also at about 50 per cent." Hallett predicted that season ticket sales and membership would be up on last year once people have come along to view their awesome new setting.

There are plans to hus people from the Athletic Ground to the Madejski Stadium where they can

watch a collection of seriously competitive players. Seven summer signings include New South Wales centre Matt Dixon, Ireland A lock Brian Cusack, from Bath, and wing Nick Walne, a Cambridge Blue. Laurent Cahannes, 34, the former France flanker, has joined from Harlequins. He promised he will be at his best. "Since this is going to be my last season in top flight rugby I should like to win something."

Provided they are allowed on the grass there is every prospect of some silverware appearing at the Madejski Stadium.

World Rally Championship showdown: Flying Finn on record-breaking run in pursuit of third title

## The making of Tommi Makinen

BY NICK PHILLIPS

LAST WEEKEND Tommi Makinen won the Rally of Finland, the fastest event on the World Championship calendar, for the fifth time in a row to break Shekhar Mehta's long-standing record of four successive wins in the gruelling East African Safari Rally. But where Mehta was very much a Safari rally specialist, Makinen is an all-rounder - certainly one of the top three drivers currently competing and, arguably, the best of the lot.

At 34, Makinen is in his prime as a rally driver. He is a shy man with an extrovert driving style. His record already bears comparison with the long line of Finnish rally superstars like Hannu Mikkola, the unrelated Timo Makinen, Markku Alen and Juha Kankkunen and it is sure to become a lot more impressive over the next few years. Makinen is now competing in only his fourth full season at world level and he has already won the World Championship twice, in 1996 and 1997. This season may not always have gone to plan - he has won three rallies, crashed out twice and three times his Mitsubishi Lancer has let him down - but with three rounds left, he could well win a third championship on the trot.

That would be another record. No driver has won more than two World Championships in a row and only Kankkunen has won more than two at any stage. Makinen himself is very keen to win another world championship, but records per se do not interest him. "It's nice to make some kind of record," he said, "but I don't really think about that. I just want to be as good as possible and beat all the others."

There is little doubt that he has the speed to do just that. "For pure speed from the start of a rally," said Richard Burns, the rising young British driver who is Makinen's

team-mate at Mitsubishi, "he and Colin McRae are the fastest. The way Tommi wins rallies is to be on the pace throughout the event, but blindingly quick on two or three stages. It's very similar to the way Colin would do it, too, whereas someone like [the current championship leader] Carlos Sainz or



Makinen: Extrovert style

### RACE FOR TOP PRIZE

1 Carlos Sainz (Sp) Toyota 47pts  
2 Tommi Makinen (Fin) Mitsubishi 39  
3 Colin McRae (Gb) Subaru 38  
4 Juha Kankkunen (Fin) Ford 31  
5 Didier Auriol (Fr) Toyota 30  
6 Richard Burns (Gb) Mitsubishi 23  
World Championship for Manufacturers  
1 Toyota 72pts 2 Mitsubishi 61 3 Subaru 52  
4 Ford 40  
Remaining rounds  
12-14 October San Remo Rally  
15-17 November Rally of Australia  
22-24 November RAC Rally

Kankkunen win them by working away the whole time without really doing any one spectacular stage."

This winning strategy is one he has built up over the years. According to Phil Short, his team manager, Makinen's talent was raw when he first joined the team in late 1994. "Then, he would try to go flat out everywhere. Now he knows how to

select the stages to attack. His driving is much more intelligent."

Makinen started rallying in 1985. His father had competed in a minor way, but Tommi is unsure what sparked his passion. "For as long as I can remember, I've just dreamed of being a rally driver," he said. In the 1970s, young Tommi watched as Kankkunen, who comes from Laukaa, 100km away from the farm at Pampola where Makinen grew up, cleaned up in local rallies.

Kankkunen went on to become world champion an unprecedented four times and as Makinen grew up and started to compete he became Kankkunen's protégé, first in tractor pulling, another of Kankkunen's stamping grounds, and then, from 1985, in rallies. After an apprenticeship in local events, he moved on and by 1989 was a winner at European championship level.

The successes continued and in 1994 the big breaks started to fall into place. He contested the British Rally Championship with Nissan and was hired by Ford for his home world championship event - the 1,000 Lakes Rally (now renamed the Rally of Finland). He won that and later in the year joined Mitsubishi for a full world championship programme in 1995.

Now his dream has come true he is not only a rally driver, but one of the very best of his era. He is not sure how long he can continue at this level - like most of his competitors he finds the relentless schedule exhausting - but he is certainly looking forward to the rest of this season. "I think it will be a big fight between Colin [McRae], Carlos [Sainz] and me. Last weekend I was really happy with this car [the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution V] for the first time, and we have time to improve it more before [the next round in] San Remo. I'm very confident."

## Ford fix up prime pair

THE FORD team has pulled off a major coup for the 1999 British Touring Car Championship season by signing up two of this season's top three drivers: Alain Menu and Anthony Reid.

Ford's move underlines its determination to halt a series of disappointing seasons for the Mondeo and secure a regular place among the front-runners. Menu is widely regarded as the best driver in the

world of the front-wheel drive Super Touring cars used in the BTCC. The 35-year-old Swiss is the reigning BTCC champion and finished runner-up in each of the previous three seasons. His move signals an end to a relationship with Renault which dates back to 1993, and a return to Prodrive, the team which Ford has switched its programme to for 1999, in which Menu made his BTCC debut driving a BMW in 1992.

Reid, 39, is now in only his second BTCC season, but he has behind him a long and successful professional career in Japan and mainland Europe, and has this year won as many races as anyone in the championship (four) and taken more pole positions and fastest laps than any other driver. For his current employer, Nissan, Reid is currently second in the BTCC points standings, with Menu third.



Tommi Makinen turns on the speed on his way to winning the Rally of Finland on Sunday LAT

## Payment of fine leaves Gregory on a warning

RUGBY LEAGUE

ANDY GREGORY, the Salford coach, escaped further punishment by the League yesterday when he finally paid an outstanding £1,000 fine. The former Wigan, Widnes and Great Britain scrum-half was ordered to appear before the League's board of directors after failing to pay the fine, imposed for comments he made to the referee Steve Ganson in May.

He faced the possibility of having to pay an additional £1,500, which was suspended at the time of the first hearing but the directors let him off with a warning.

However, he is still in trouble with the administration after being accused of making further disparaging comments to another referee, Karl Kirkpatrick, during his club's defeat by Leeds last month. That matter will be heard by the disciplinary panel and Gregory, who is already banned from the touchline for the rest of the season, could face the threat of suspension.

In a statement, the RFL's media manager, Peter Rowe, said: "The board listened to representation from Mr Gregory regarding his personal circumstances and decided to impose no additional penalty."

"However, he was strongly warned by the chairman about his future conduct and was given advice about how to conduct himself in the future. A further accusation of referee abuse during the Salford-Leeds match was deferred to a future meeting of the RFL's disciplinary sub-committee when witnesses will be called."

Oldham sacked their coach Paddy Kirwan yesterday with only three games remaining in their Second Division campaign. Kirwan, 37, who was not under contract, makes way for assistant Mick Coates, who will take charge for the last three games.

The decision of the four-man board was taken following Sunday's 17-2 defeat at Batley, which damaged the club's hopes of promotion.

The new Gateshead franchise is poised to name Shaun McRae and Kerrod Walters as its inaugural coach and captain respectively. McRae, the current St Helens coach who has been told his contract is not being renewed, has been the new club's first choice to guide it through its formative period. His three years at Saints brought two Challenge Cups and the first Super League title.

McRae has also worked alongside Walters with the Australian squad. The 30-year-old former Brisbane Broncos hooker has won eight caps for his country and will be the first of at least a dozen signings from Australia.

# BEFORE CHECKING OUT FOR YOUR BANK HOLIDAY, CHECK IN AT ESSO

- ☒ CHECK OIL
- ☒ TOP UP WITH ESSO ULTRON
- ☒ CHECK TYRE PRESSURE
- ☒ CHECK WATER
- ☒ CLEAN SCREEN

BEFORE YOU GO ANYWHERE THIS Bank Holiday, check your oil at Esso. Recent surveys have shown that 50% of all cars run on less than the recommended level of oil, and 13% are even below the recommended minimum level. These cars are at risk of considerable engine problems. By putting Esso Ultrun on your checklist, you're helping to prevent your car from being one of them. So go to your local Esso Service station and check it out now.



\*Offer only available at participating Esso Service Stations. While stocks last.











# Stewart beats off challenge

CRICKET  
BY DEREK PRINGLE

IF THE England selectors had any lingering doubt about Alec Stewart's captaincy qualities after they appointed him in May, they have long since disappeared. As England prepared for their one-off Test against Sri Lanka at the Oval yesterday by sending for another spinner, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced that Stewart had been made captain for both the Ashes campaign as well as next year's World Cup. In short, cricket's two holy grails.

Considering that England began the season with two captains sharing Test and one-day duties, the return to an all-embracing role confirms the regard in which Stewart's leadership is now held, something Adam Hoggie, the one-day captain until recently, has not been able to match.

"We are all very impressed with how Alec has taken to the job," said the chairman of selectors, David Graveney. "To begin with we were unsure of his workload, but he has done very well. His appointment to both jobs puts an end to the speculation surrounding the World Cup, and hopefully we can now start building a team."

Stewart, who as captain,

wicketkeeper and top-order batsman, has had to cope with a trio of demanding roles, was typically upbeat. "Captaining your country," he said, "is the highest honour you can have in the game and I'm enormously grateful to be given the chance to continue in that role."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed both the challenge of leadership and the success we have had this

summer, and I hope both I and my team-mates can repeat that success in the coming months."

There is nothing quite like a Test series victory for making up minds and the appointment by the selection panel was apparently both prompt and unanimous. What did take time, however, was the decision over whether or not to send him to the Wills International Cup,

due to be held in Bangladesh during October.

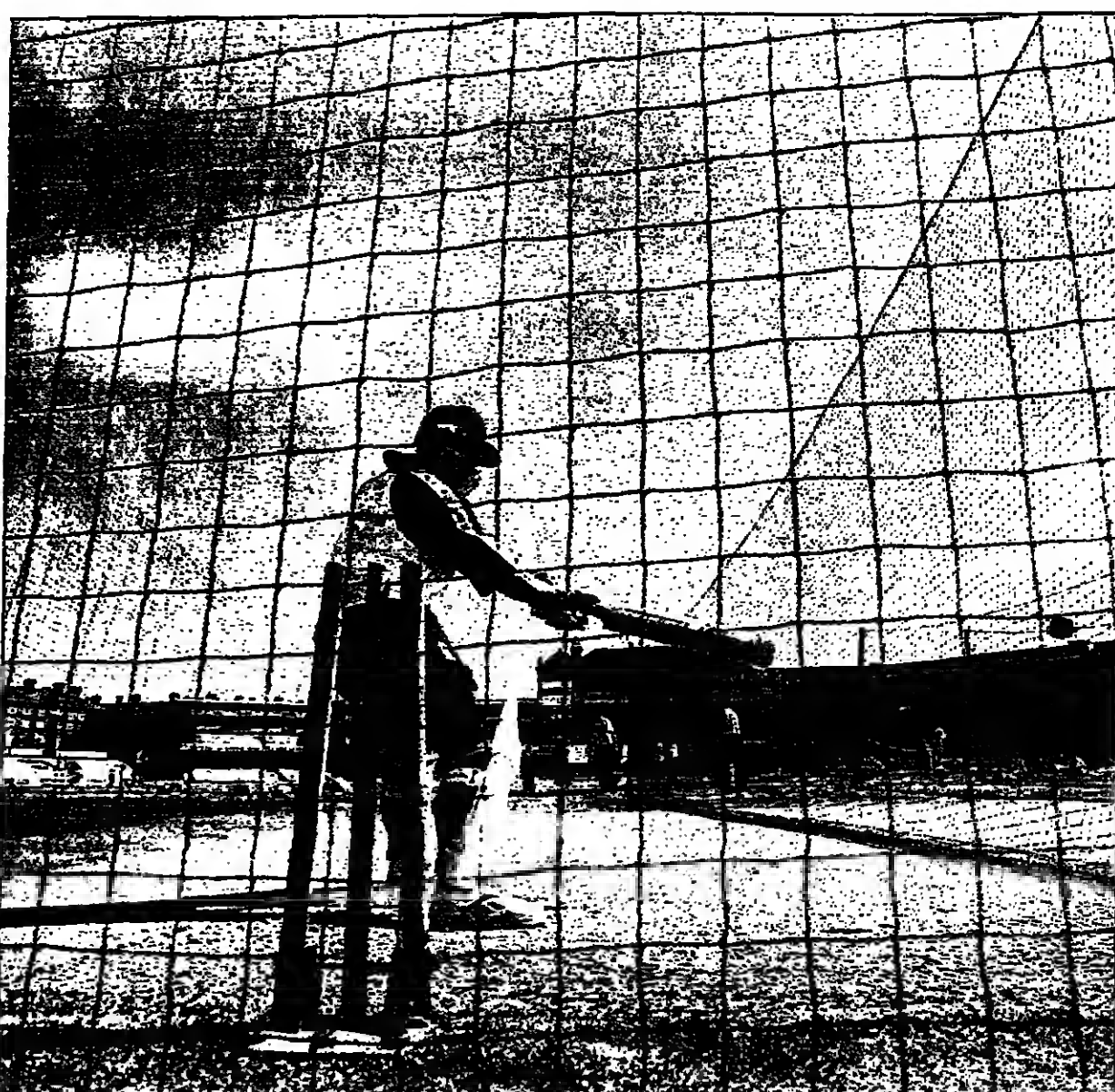
The contest, which is being held to raise money for the International Cricket Council's development fund, clashes with England's arrival in Australia. Over the years the Aussies have made enough laughing stocks out of recent England teams without one arriving there captainless.

After much prevarication, not least because the ECB had undertaken to send their strongest possible side, it was decided that it would be better for Stewart to be with his side preparing for the Ashes in Perth.

In other words, England have plumped to send their captain to the Waca, rather than Dacca, arguing, rightly in this instance, that the idiosyncratic conditions - high bouncing pitch and strong wind - needed to be experienced before the second Test there in early December.

It is a delicate situation and one that will no doubt attract criticism from certain quarters of the ICC. At the moment England are skirting the issue by pointing out that 38 players were shortlisted for the World Cup and that they are still some way off knowing what their strongest one-day team is.

However, with one dilemma seemingly resolved, another rolled into view as the teams ar-



Alec Stewart in contented mood yesterday as he limbers up for the Test match with Sri Lanka

AP/SPORT

rived at the Oval for practice. Expecting a typical hard-bouncy pitch, the players were instead confronted with a bare low-bouncing surface. Sri

Lanka, with about six spinners to choose from, could barely contain their delight. England packed off Alan Mullally and sent for Robert Croft.

The state of the pitch has clearly caught England on the hop. Should both spinners play, as now looks likely, Ben Hoggie, as earlier in the summer

at Old Trafford, will again be the man to miss out.

Still, as big brother will no doubt tell him, there is always Bangladesh.

## Clyde looks to Dutch master

FOOTBALL  
BY IAN PARKES

CLYDE WILNHARD has been taken under the protective wing of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, his Dutch compatriot, in a bid to help Leeds soar in the Premiership.

George Graham, the Leeds manager, went double Dutch over the summer signing Wilnhard from Willem II Tilburg for £1.5m as a new strike partner for Hasselbaink.

And the duo proved an instant hit in their first Premiership game together as they combined for hotshot Hasselbaink to fire United in a 1-0 win over Blackburn at Eland Road on Monday night.

It was the perfect start for Hasselbaink - he missed the curtain-raiser at Middlesbrough through suspension - following his sensational 22-goal haul during his debut campaign last season.

Wilnhard is now hoping to follow in Hasselbaink's footsteps and blaze a goal trail himself as he learns the tricks of the Premiership trade from the Holland international.

If the pair manage to click - and the early signs are encouraging - the writing could be on the wall for defences everywhere as master and pupil lead the line.

"Jimmy's confidence is rubbing off on me," said Wilnhard. "We're talking a lot to one another before and after the game. He's teaching me and telling me what I must do to improve even more."

"He's showing me a lot of the little things you need in your game to play at this level, like what you have to do when you're about to receive the ball, using my body strength more."

"Every game he tells me what to do because he has the experience of having played in the Premiership last season, and he's passing on that experience to me."

"I'm learning more and more as time goes on, so I think I will improve with every match. But there's certainly more to come."

Wilnhard knows it will take time for the partnership to fully blossom as Hasselbaink didn't start to shine until after Christmas last year.

"It's a new team, new players and when we get to know each other we can start to get good results," added Wilnhard. "By the end of the season things should be much better."

"I saw the impact Jimmy made in the Premiership last season. I don't know whether I can achieve something similar, but I certainly hope to make a good impression."

"I had four years in Holland, having been schooled at Ajax initially and every season I improved. I just hope I can continue that improvement."

Graham believes those years with the Dutch giants will stand Wilnhard in good stead for coping with the demands of playing in the Premiership.

"Having been brought up there, I consider to be the proper way, he has a lot of good qualities," said Graham.

"He's got a lovely touch, but he's got to learn the intensity and the fast, furious pace of English football and that will take him a little bit of time."

## Franks and Bulbeck halt breakneck Pakistan

BY JOHN COLLIS  
at Taunton

Pakistan Under-19 276;  
England Under-19 38-0

IT MAY be assumed that stern words were spoken in the Pakistan dressing-room yesterday lunchtime, at which point the visiting batsmen had recovered from 89 for 6 to 123 without further loss. The young Pakistanis were infected with a virus that has been running around the county circuit late-

ly, characterised by a total inability to build an innings. It causes the batsman to suffer from a conviction that, since dismissal must be imminent, a big-batted bolt is the only response to the bowling. But the disease was far less apparent in the afternoon.

Matt Bulbeck, who has come almost from nowhere to regular Somerset first-team cricket in half a season, saw his first three overs go for 33 runs before England, in particular the brisk Essex bowler Jamie

Grove, began to clip away at batting that bore no relation to the four-day status of the match.

Bulbeck himself atoned for his wild start with a trio of wickets, but after lunch he was clearly bowling in some discomfort. Since he has only just returned after rib injury one might wonder to what extent a county rejoices when one of their youngsters is honoured at this level. The players themselves, if fighting to hold a senior place, must regard Under-19 selection with mixed

feelings, though for those who spent most of their summer in the second XI the advantages are clear. Certainly Under-19 cricket is gaining in status under NatWest's sponsorship.

The Pakistan tour got off to a soggy start at Barragrove where the first-day international was abandoned, though not before Essex's Stephen Peters had made 78. Pakistan dominated the second one-day, but then an undefeated 62 by skipper Owais Shah, of Middlesex, ironically Pakistan-

born enabled England to finish the one-day series all square.

In the first Test at Worcester, Shah made 96 in the first innings, while the quick Irfan Fazli, who runs in like Waqar Younis, took six wickets. Although Pakistan had a first-innings lead, substantial knocks by Kent's Robert Key, Shah and Peters gave England something to bowl at, and the home side brought a 1-0 lead here for the second of three Tests thanks to Northamptonshire's Graeme Swann,

whose off-breaks took 6 for 46. Yesterday Paul Franks, of Nottinghamshire, had the most impressive tally in bowling out Pakistan, while from the Pavilion Bulbeck reported a back strain unrelated to his recent injury. That the visitors were able to bat until tea was due to diligent work for the seventh wicket by Irfan Nazir and Shoaib Malik, who added 167 in 39 overs. Both enjoyed reprieves, however, and Key will have fewer easier slip chances than the one he dropped when Shoaib snicked

Sussex's medium-paceman Giles Haywood's third ball.

Both batsmen perished in turn, giving Key and Essex's Ian Flanagan a possible 36 overs in fading light. The left-handed Flanagan clipped Irfan to the point boundary to launch the innings, but when the fourth scoreboard light beamed out at five o'clock, the score on a steady 38, England accepted an invitation to leave the field. A cloudy evening restored British normality to a sometimes breakneck day.

## Lights a real turn on

BY JON CULLEY

YORKSHIRE'S RESOUNDING defeat by Lancashire in Monday's floodlit Roses match will not deter David Byas's team from attempting to do their traditional rivals a huge favour next Sunday.

Despite a hat-trick by Darren Gough as Headingley enjoyed a first taste of day-night cricket, Lancashire won by 101 runs to go four points clear in the AXA League table as Yorkshire were dismissed for just 81 in 25 overs.

Lancashire, finalists in the NatWest Trophy and still in contention for the Championship, have two AXA League matches left but could be piped to the title by Essex, who have a game in hand.

However, Essex have to go to Scarborough on Sunday and will find Yorkshire determined not to hand them easy points.

"We have to do better," Byas said. "We need points against

Essex and in our other remaining games to keep our place in the top nine and so get into the First Division of the new league next season."

This is the last season of cricket's 40-over format, with the AXA League and Benson and Hedges Cup giving way to a two-division National League based on 50-overs matches.

### TOP FIVE

Team	P	W	L	D	NR	Net
Lancashire (3)	15	10	5	0	3	46
Essex (7)	14	9	2	1	2	42
Warwickshire (1)	14	7	5	0	2	34
Leeds (4)	14	7	5	0	2	32
Middlesex (16)	14	7	5	0	2	32

Apart from their encounter with Yorkshire, Essex are due to meet Nottinghamshire at Chelmsford on 6 September before concluding their programme at Leicester on 13 September. Lancashire face Gloucestershire at Old Trafford on 7 September, two days after their NatWest final against Derbyshire, and finish

with another floodlit fixture against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge on 9 September.

Gough's hat-trick thrilled a Headingley crowd of more than 10,000, and it could signal that day-night cricket is here to stay.

The Yorkshire marketing director, Mark Newton, said: "The response has been fantastic and commercially this is definitely the way forward for cricket in this country."

"We reckon that 50 per cent of the crowd was made up of non-members, compared with 15-20 per cent for a normal AXA League game. And quite a large proportion of those will have been tempted to watch cricket for the first time."

"I can see these games becoming a major part of the calendar, perhaps even with a shorter version of the game lasting just a couple of hours or so to appeal to younger people and introduce them to the game."

## Notts 'will not ease up'

ALAN ORMROD, the Nottinghamshire cricket manager, has promised that his struggling side will not ease up during their difficult run-in to the end of the season. The East Midlands, who lost their last match to County Championship leaders Surrey, still have to play the other three title contenders in the final four weeks of the season - starting with the derby with third-placed Leicestershire at Workson today.

Their games with Leicestershire, Lancashire - who are second - and fourth-placed Gloucestershire will go a long way towards determining who wins the title, and Ormrod has

pledged his team will be no pushovers for anyone.

"We've got to get ourselves sorted and play some good cricket," said Ormrod, whose side are currently 15th. "We've got to keep going to try to get into a respectable position. There are no bad sides in the County Championship - it's just a matter of who gets the rub of the green at that particular time. We've got to try and match up with the top boys."

Nottinghamshire's overseas star Paul Strang will make his farewell appearance before leaving to play for Zimbabwe in the Commonwealth Games. Leicestershire have the

chance to make up ground on their title rivals Surrey and Lancashire, who both have a week off. Their coach, Jack Birkenhead, admitted at the start of the month that his side, who currently stand third, had to win their final six games to stand a chance of lifting the crown for the second time in three years. They hope to have their captain, Chris Lewis, back after missing the last three Championship matches with a back injury.

Dominic Cork (on England duty) and Phillip DeFreitas (rushed heel) miss Derbyshire's match against Durham at Derby.

### CRICKET SCOREBOARD

AXA League					
Gloucestershire v Somerset					
BRISTOL (One Day)					
Somerset					
Somerset					
Runners					
M Burns b Ball	7	0	10	12	
M N Lathwell b b Dawson	3	0	14	14	
M E Trecothick not out	18	0	32	39	
P O Bowler run out	3	0	13	12	
G O Rose not out	31	0	14	25	
Essex (63 w)					
Total (11.1 overs)					
P S Jones, A R Coddick					
To Essex: J O Kerr, A A Parsons, W J Turner, A R K Pearson					
P S Jones, A R Coddick					
Bowling: R J Dawson 7-0-22-1, M C J Ball 5-0-14-1, C A Walsh 1-5-0-7-0					
Dismissed: K E Palmer and R A White					

Second NatWest Under 19 Test					
England v Pakistan					
Taunton (Day 1 of 4): England are trailing Pakistan by 238 runs with all first-innings wickets in hand					
Pakistan Under 19 won toss					
PAKISTAN - First innings					
Runners					
Irfan Nazir b Franks	23	0	35	37	
Tokeez Umar c Flanagan b Grove	10	0	17	20	
"Bazid Khan b Franks	2	0	10	11	
Hosain Raza c Gough b Bulbeck	28	0	43	57	
Faisal Iqbal c Gough b Bulbeck	8	0	22	24	
Imran Nazir c Flanagan b Swann	59	0	17	182	
Hidayatullah b Franks	1	0	7	5	
Shoaib Malik c Wallace b Franks	66	0	10	125	
Zahid Saad not out	6	0	1	12	
Irfan Fazli b Swann	2	0	8	8	

England - First innings					
Runners					
I N Flanagan not out	10	0	2	25	
R W T Key not out	28	0	6	24	
Essex (62)					
Total (8 overs)					
To Essex: M A Gough, O A Shah, S O Peters, G J Swann, G R Hoggie, P J Franks, M P L Bulbeck, M Wallace, J O Grove					
Bowling: Irfan Fazli 4-2-12-0, Zahid Saad 3-0-26-0, Kashif					
Raza 1-1-0-0					
Dismissed: R Duckson and T E Jersey					

## TODAY'S NUMBER

23

The number of days Antonio Oliveira lasted as Real Betis coach. The man who led Porto to a double was sacked because of poor pre-season results.

OFF YOUR GAS BILLS WITH BRITISH GAS

For a free estimate, call 0800 270 270. Or visit our website at [www.britishgas.co.uk](http://www.britishgas.co.uk)

British Gas Home Energy

British Gas Home Energy

مكتبة القرآن



# Angry Spurs fans eye new 'Double'

Nick Hewer, a spokesman for Sugar, denied that talks had taken place with either Murdoch or Lewis and added: "I spoke to Alan last night and this morning and there's nothing in these stories at all."

Sugar was seen at the club's training ground in Chigwell again yesterday. Hewer added: "He is very concerned about the team and that's where his focus is at the moment. The club is superb in so many ways but unfortunately it's not so good on the pitch at the moment and that's the frustrating part. Everyone here is dressed up with no

OM BOYD, the Celtic captain, insists his side must succeed in their chase for a Champions' League place if Scottish clubs are to shed their tag of European also-rans. The Parkhead side's destiny rests on the outcome of tonight's second qualifying round second leg tie against Croatia Zagreb.

After a 1-0 home win a fortnight ago through Darren Jackson's goal, Celtic are 90 minutes away from joining Europe's elite. That would rank as an achievement in itself according to Boyd, who believes being part of the Champions' League is the key to restoring the Scots' diminished reputation overseas.

This season has seen the launch of the new Scottish Premier League, but domestic results cannot compare in scale to victories over Europe's finest.

At this stage last season Newcastle deprived Zagreb of qualification, and now at the Maksimir Stadium the Croatians are determined to overturn that setback.

However, as Boyd stresses, Celtic's own motivation stands comparisons as they aim to redress the recent failings of Rangers in the same competition. He said: "Just to make the Champions' League, that is you in at the best. We have had a lot of disappointing results in Europe recently and no Scottish club has really gone too far. But we know if we can get a result in this one game, we are then guaranteed at least six matches against quality opposition."

Boyd knows how Celtic approach this return leg will be crucial. An away goal scored first would leave Zagreb needing three to win, and yet while the match remains goalless the emphasis will be on the trailing home side to be the more positive.

Celtic's main injury concerns are Jackie McNamara and Morten Wigehorst. That Wigehorst missed Saturday's 2-1 win over Dundee United effectively rules the Dane out, as his last game was in pre-season against Kilmarnock when he sustained a knee problem.

Jozef Venglos, the head coach, is more optimistic about McNamara, who will be given maximum recovery time because of his importance to the game plan. He said: "There is so little between the teams that one man playing or not playing could be the vital difference, but only those 100 per cent fit can be considered."



## SPORT

THE MAKING OF MAKINEN P21 • THE RENAISSANCE OF RUSEDISKI P23

## Super league blueprint revealed

## FOOTBALL

BY NICK HARRIS

RODOLFO HECHT, the man behind plans for a European super league, said yesterday in London that he had "absolute confidence" that the tournament would be up and running by the summer of 2000.

However, Hecht, president of Milan-based Media Partners, faces a struggle with the leaders of Europe's major leagues, who rejected his plans at a

meeting in Geneva yesterday. "Until we had the final shape of the concept, we didn't want to go public with it," Hecht said. Hecht met on Monday with Europe's leading clubs, including Manchester United and Arsenal, and now feels his ambition of the last three years is close to becoming a reality.

Yesterday, he outlined in detail for the first time precisely how his company's plans will work. The main competition will be known as the European Football League and will consist

## The man behind the revolution

'The ESL started as a hobby to see if we develop something better for the clubs and fans'

Rodolfo Hecht reveals all, page 20



of 32 teams in two divisions. Sixteen clubs, which would be known as "founding members", have been invited to join on the basis of their "sporting merit" over the past 10 years. These clubs - including Manchester

United, Arsenal and Liverpool - are those which have the best 10-year performance records in their countries according to Media Partners' analysis. Their place in the ESL would be guaranteed on a three-yearly basis

and changed as their fortunes on the pitch fluctuate. "The criteria is rooted in on the pitch performance," Hecht said. The other 16 sides will qualify for the ESL on the basis of performance in their own do-

mestic league, season by season. At least one of these places would be given to an English side, in addition to the three named clubs, should those clubs choose to participate. A second competition - the Pro Cup - will see another 56-plus teams (including at least six more from England) contest a knock-out, UEFA Cup style competition. Teams in the super league will be guaranteed nearly £20m each per season for taking part. Hecht chose yesterday to reveal his plans because he now feels

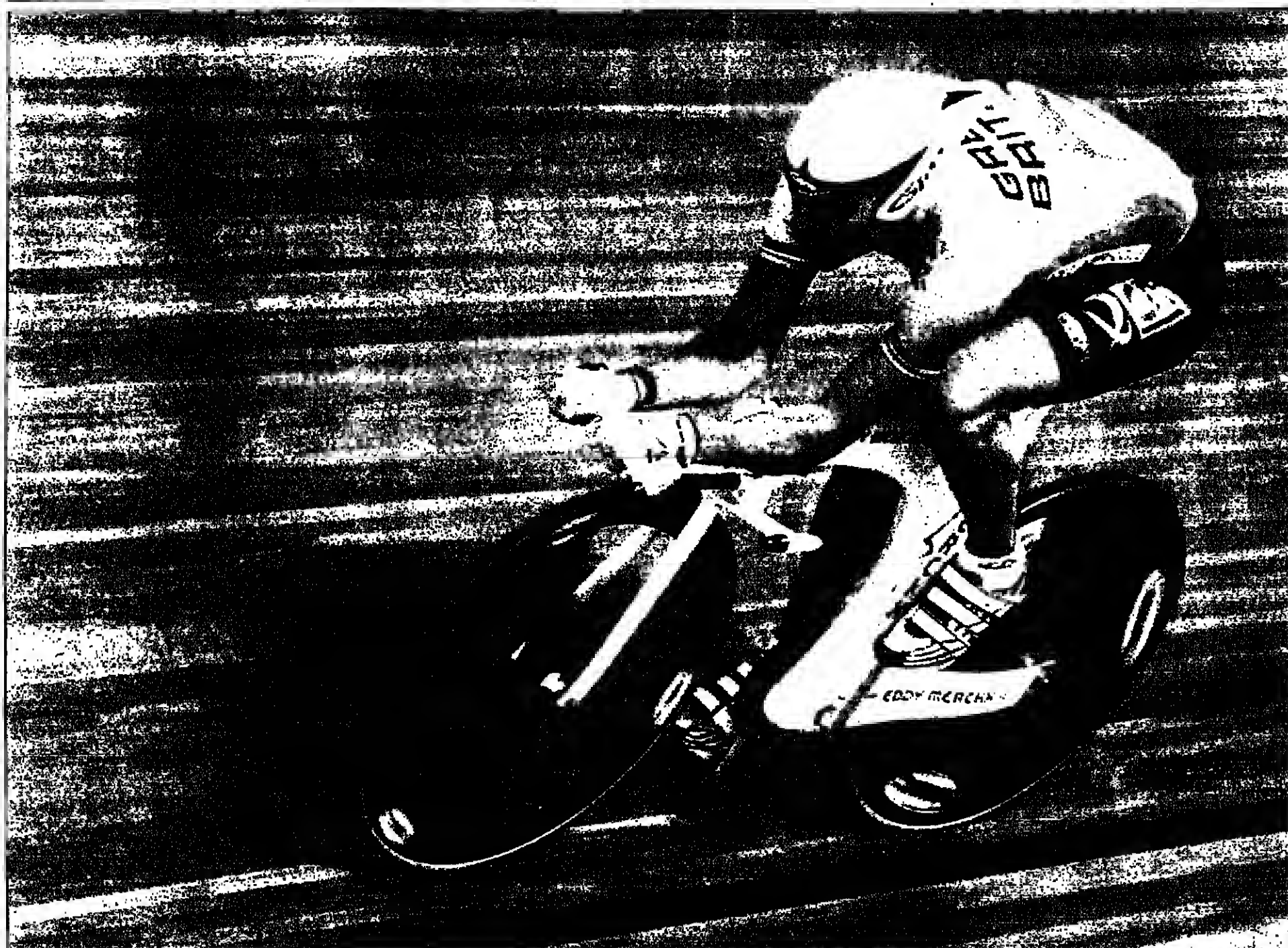
he has the support of Europe's major clubs to go ahead.

That support is not forthcoming from leagues in which the clubs play. UEFA's Committee for Professional Football said in Geneva yesterday it opposed the project. Antonio Matarrese, the committee's chairman and a UEFA vice-president, said: "The committee does not feel it deserves our attention."

The meeting was attended by the UEFA general secretary, Gerhard Aigner, and the heads of European leagues, including Peter

Leaver of the Premier League. Matarrese said there were "moments of antagonism" among members but they all were in agreement in opposing the super league plan.

However, UEFA could seek to head off the threat of a break-away league at a meeting in Monaco on Saturday, where changes to the format of the three major European club championships will be discussed. Aigner confirmed yesterday plans to merge the UEFA Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup.



Chris Boardman sharpens his fitness yesterday for an assault on the pursuit title at the World Track Championship in Bordeaux

Preview, page 23/APP

## Harford the target for Newcastle

BY ALAN NIXON

KENNY DALGLISH wants Ray Harford to join him at Newcastle United in a repeat of their 'title-winning double act' at Blackburn Rovers.

Harford is insecure at Queen's Park Rangers, where he has had an unhappy managerial reign since joining them from West Bromwich Albion. He has little money to spend, despite selling Nigel Quashie to Nottingham Forest for £2.5m.

Dalglish is keen for Harford to be reunited with him at Newcastle and add his knowledge to their coaching team - they had a successful partnership at Blackburn, where they won the Premiership. However, the move has been delayed because Rangers want compensation for Harford - despite his patchy performance.

Alan Ball has re-signed the winger he once described as "the most exciting player in English football". The Portsmouth manager gave Martin Phillips, that accolade when he took him with him from Exeter to Manchester City for £500,000 in November 1995. Yesterday the 22-year-old moved to Fratton Park from Maine Road for a nominal fee.

The Leeds United midfielder Andy Gray is set to become Nottingham Forest's second midfield recruit in a week. After Quashie's arrival from Queen's

Park Rangers, Forest yesterday agreed a fee of £200,000 for Gray, a Scottish Under-21 international. His father, Frank, also played off full-back for Leeds and Forest.

The Notts County manager, Sam Allardyce, has invited Dennis Booth to become his assistant, following Mark Smith's departure to join the Barnsley coaching staff. Booth is currently the reserve-team coach at Walsall.

Fifa, world football's ruling body, has told the eight nations taking part in the Confederations Cup this winter that they do not have to pick their strongest squads for the tournament. This may defuse a potential row between the world champions, France, and Arsenal and Chelsea.

Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira and Nicolas Anelka and Chelsea's Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf could all be called up by France to go to Mexico for the event in mid-January.

But now that Fifa has given Roger Lemerre, the new French national coach, the green light to try out some fringe players, a major club v country row may be averted.

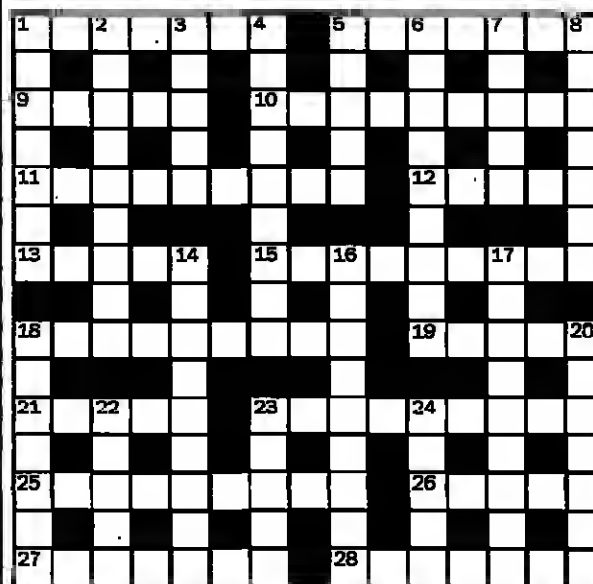
The other seven nations involved in the Confederations Cup are the United States, Brazil, Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia and the hosts, Mexico.

## THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3699, Wednesday 26 August

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



DEFEND FIGHT  
HOSTILELY HARASS  
US S L C R Y  
SALUBRITY  
ZOOLOGY RESIN  
COYPU HARBOUR  
PARLIAMENARIAN  
BOBBIN SEMANTIC  
LUS R G A E  
ENTREE ASHURN

- ACROSS**
- Rosemary, for example, remaining in lead (7)
  - Open insult from a fellow going by van (7)
  - Alternative to last month's colour scheme (5)
  - Patience of Americans at Oriel is remarkable (9)
  - Hong Kong currency to recover, as from heart of city (9)
  - Last in series of home games (5)
  - County dandies? (5)
  - He was winning, he thought, on the pools (9)
  - They settle with coins lost carelessly (9)
  - Forename of him-star who showed dress-ring? (5)
  - Backer of spirit (5)

- Hopeless means of raising pontoon (9)
- Square vessel in engagement (9)
- He was bound to go round in the heat (5)
- Director ran out, unfortunately for supporter of the home (7)
- Table centerpiece - pea-green possibly with a piece missing (7)
- Bid to affect pace in this rickshaw? (7)
- Kind of hitch in College of Applied Science (9)
- Headless monster in slip (5)
- Fundamental rules marking limits of activity in court? (9)
- Compose a Latin ballad (5)

- Fellow in Gotham fixed the plumbing (9)
- Love to be a girl? (5)
- They protect climbers' first purchases (7)
- One in a suit wearing vest? (9)
- Eugenia taking wine with Granny Smith, perhaps (4-5)
- Maxim in vision, fluctuating (9)
- Occasion right for an unscrupulous opportunist? (7)
- As a neck is damaged in a sideways glance (7)
- Sound from smallest in litter at end of feeding (5)
- A habit endlessly broken in San Salvador, formerly (5)
- Blade, keen at first, to turn out fine (5)

## Holmes finally ends the misery

## ATHLETICS

BY BRYN PALMER

KELLY HOLMES returns to competition on Sunday aiming to prove she is on course to defend her Commonwealth title in Kuala Lumpur next month.

The 1500m champion will end months of agony when she takes on the Americans in the Spar British Challenge at Glasgow's Scotstoun stadium.

At the lowest point of her struggle to recover from injury, Holmes, the former army sergeant who announced her arrival on the international scene by winning silver and bronze medals at the 1995 World Championships, feared

she might never be able to race again.

Favourite for gold at the same championships in Athens last year, she limped off the track with a serious Achilles injury that threatened her future in the sport. But after fighting her way back to fitness with an intensive physiotherapy programme, the 28-year-old cannot wait to resume her racing career again on Sunday when she will face Britain's European Cup 5,000m champion, Paula Radcliffe, in the mile.

"There have been times this winter when I really thought I would never get fit for this summer, but I have and I cannot wait to race in Glasgow," Holmes said. "I ran a low-key

3,000 metres at the weekend which confirmed to me that everything is now fully recovered. I am short of specific race sharpness but my training has been pretty good. I am really looking forward to racing Paula to let me know exactly where I am."

Radcliffe will also be aiming to regain form before thoughts turn to Kuala Lumpur in just over a fortnight's time. She managed only a disappointing fifth place in the 10,000m at the European Championships in Budapest last week.

The Scotstoun event will see the first outings on home soil of many of Britain's heroes since their magnificent performances in the Hungarian capital.

## Mitchell to contest dope verdict

DENNIS MITCHELL, the American sprinter, yesterday pledged to fight the two-year drug suspension handed to him by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"This is the blackest mark that any athlete can have on their record," Mitchell said at a news conference. "I have done nothing wrong, but I am not being permitted to compete. I will now proceed through the hearing process. I can only hope that justice will prevail and I will be rightfully exonerated."

Mitchell, 32, has requested a hearing before the USA Track and Field Doping Hearing Board. Were the panel to find the athlete not guilty they would have the power to overturn the

current suspension by a majority vote, thus freeing Mitchell to compete again.

Mitchell received the suspension after testing positive for testosterone at an out-of-competition sample on 1 April, but the 1992 Olympic 100m bronze medalist insists he is innocent. "This is both morally and ethically unacceptable to me," he said. "I have, throughout my career, thought that the only way to succeed was through hard work and dedication to yourself and God. I never in my wildest dreams thought this would happen to me."

Suja Thomas, Mitchell's lawyer, said that the disgraced athlete would contest the validity of the test on two grounds.

"Experts will firstly look at whether or not the test itself was correct," Thomas said of the two urine samples. "And, secondly, if the test was correct, what could have caused the testosterone to epiteosterone [another natural substance] level to increase [above the allowable ratio of 6:1]."

Ironically, as president of the USATF's Athletes' Advisory Committee - the athletes' voice in the governing body - Mitchell has often appeared an outspoken advocate of keeping drugs out of his sport.

"The things that have happened to me in the last few months will forever affect all parts of my life," he said. "This can never be taken away."

Your last chance to buy  
a special tribute from Royal Doulton  
THE JOHNNERS CHARACTER JUG



Limited edition closing 30 September

Brian Johnston's cricket commentaries not only informed audiences but entertained them with wit and charm. This special tribute jug has been meticulously crafted and painted by hand, using traditional Royal Doulton techniques. The detailed handle features the icons of his fame - a cricket ball, wicket ball, and of course, a microphone! Issued in a limited edition of 9,500, no more of the Brian Johnston Jug will be made after 30 September 1998.

Exclusive to Lawleys by Post, the Johnners Character Jug is available for one instalment of £49.95 or 3 interest free instalments of £16.65\*. Take this final opportunity and reserve yours today.

NO QUIBBLE GUARANTEE  
If you decide not to keep your jug, we will refund your money without question. If anything is wrong when it arrives, we will replace it straight away.

Royal Doulton

Lawleys by Post, Milton House, London Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 3RD

Lawleys by Post is a UK Royal Doulton (UK) Ltd. Registered No. 5112

PRIORITY ORDER FORM - NO STAMP NEEDED

I enclose a cheque payable to Lawleys by Post for £49.95 as payment in full, or for £16.65 as the first of 3 monthly instalments.

OR  
Please debit my Access/American Express/Visa card with one payment of £49.95 or with £16.65 as the first instalment, followed by two further instalments at monthly intervals.

Card Number

Expiry Date

Name

Address

Daytime Tel. No.

Postcode

Signature (if over 18 years)

Return to: Terry Schmitt, Lawleys by Post, FRP/PSY, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 3RD.

or telephone: Your order card only on 03451 823 444. Please allow 28 days for despatch. \*Within quotation on request.



# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



World Pictures

Over three thousand Britons have died while travelling abroad since 1994. When foul play is involved, their families can face massive indifference from the authorities if they try to find the culprits. No one wants trouble in a tourist paradise

There is no need to be alarmed," Cornelius Smith assured would-be visitors to the Bahamas this week. The Minister for Tourism was not going to allow the mere presence of a serial killer, who has attacked and strangled at least two female holiday-makers, to tarnish the islands' reputation as a luxurious and crime-free destination.

One of the killer's victims was Joanne Clarke, a 24-year-old British primary school teacher of children with special needs. Her body was found in bushes behind the palm-fringed Cabbage Beach in Paradise Island. Joanne had travelled to the Bahamas for a three-week holiday, staying with a friend who is a nanny for a British family living in the capital, Nassau.

The discovery last weekend of her body and the decomposing remains of another woman – thought to be Lori Fogleman, a 32-year-old American teacher – came on the anniversary of the murder of another British woman, Carole Leach, also a teacher, who had been living on the neighbouring island of Eleuthera. The killer has never been caught.

As greater numbers of British travellers seek out ever more distant and exotic holiday destinations, so more of them are dying in suspicious or mysterious circumstances. But in many under-resourced nations that are becoming dependent on the tourist dollar, there is a reluctance to pursue high-profile investigations that generate publicity that could ruin the local economy. One senior British police source says: "In many Third World countries they only bother with an investigation if it's someone important. They don't do house-to-house inquiries; they don't have the same standards of scene-of-crime investigations [as we do] and they rarely interview witnesses properly."

In Britain last year, 91 per cent of all murder and manslaughter cases were cleared up within a year. But many families of people killed overseas have found that they have had to put great pressure on police simply to keep the investigations alive.

John Dickinson, whose daughter Caroline was murdered in France two years ago, was infuriated by the way the French police set about the investigation. The investigating magistrate refused even to speak to him. "It concerned me greatly that he couldn't spend five minutes of his time to meet the father of a murdered schoolgirl," he recalls.

Yesterday in Kenya, a man was finally due in court accused of murdering the British tourist Julie Ward, who was murdered while travelling in the Masai Mara National Reserve. Her millionaire father, John Ward, has waged a 10-year campaign to bring the killers to justice.

Figures released by the Foreign Office yesterday show that an alarmingly high number of Britons die while travelling overseas. Since 1994, 289 British citizens have died in Thailand, 192 in India, 48 in Indonesia, 24 in Nepal. There have been 415 British deaths in Greece, 233 in Turkey, 378 in France and 1,607 in Spain.

THEY FOUND Peter Norton lying in a school yard underneath a tree. He had arrived in Bali only the day before, in search of a couple of weeks' surfing before going back to his studies.

Now he is dead, and no one knows why. The local police do not seem to be concerned.

If anyone were ever properly prepared for the hidden risks of foreign travel, it was Peter Norton. Though only a month past his 21st birthday, he was the veteran of a 12-month round-the-world adventure only two years previously. He was also blessed with exceptional maturity, a gentle, non-confrontational nature and a genuine love of other cultures.

Peter had travelled to the Indonesian island with his friend Jonathan, a 28-year-old dentist whom he had met in Australia. The fortnight's trip was to set him up for a term studying in France as part of his International Business Studies degree. His mother, Mary, remembers: "He was full of enthusiasm. After his world trip we thought this would just be two weeks' holiday."

The two young men arrived in Bali on a Sunday afternoon in February last year and decided to spend their first evening at the Bounty Bar, a popular meeting-place for young international travellers. Shortly after 2am, Jonathan came off the club's dance floor and looked for his friend. Peter was nowhere to be seen, but since he was the sort of person who makes friends easily, Jonathan

consciousness to explain how his injuries had been caused.

The Foreign Office asked the Indonesian authorities for a "full and thorough" investigation, but Mary and David Norton are still none the wiser. "We wanted to keep it high-profile but I think tourism is all they have got," she says.

So she may never know how Peter's body was lifted over the high school walls and carefully placed in the shade of the tree. Nor is she likely to learn how he came by the gash at the back of his head.

A Singapore inquest recorded an open verdict. Last month, at a second hearing, Luton coroners made the same finding.

Peter had not been drunk. Nor was he the type to go climbing trees or walls in the dark.

Mrs Norton says: "I could imagine him walking on to the beach to take in the atmosphere. But he was aware. He was sensible. There has never been any indication of the cause of the head injury."

WHEN EDGAR Fernandes, a London librarian, went missing last April, a day after arriving in Turkey for a week's holiday, the authorities in Istanbul suggested to his family that he might have found himself a girlfriend.

His exasperated relatives eventually flew to Istanbul themselves and tracked down his unidentified body in a morgue. He had been beaten and robbed of his wallet and British passport, then thrown into the Bosphorus.

His sister Jenny says that even after the body was found, it was the Fernandes family who had to carry out the search for the killer.

The family managed to use Edgar's credit card statements to trace a man who has now been arrested in Malta, and charged with credit card fraud and use of a false passport.

Following pressure from the family and from the MP Keith Vaz, the Turkish authorities are seeking to extradite this man as a suspect in Edgar's murder.

Mr Vaz believes that British citizens, especially those from Asian communities, are being targeted for their passports by criminals involved in organised illegal immigration.

The families of those killed abroad advise all young travellers to make sure that they carry identification on their person at all times, so that consulates and families can be contacted if they are found injured.

Many young travellers choose not to take out travel insurance because they are carrying little of value – without realising that they could require very expensive hospital treatment if they were to be attacked.

"I don't think British tourists are aware of the dangers," says Jenny Fernandes. "They do not realise that if they are attacked or murdered there is very little that those authorities will do – or that the British government will do."

BY IAN BURRELL

returned to their hotel confident that he was in no danger.

For the next two days Jonathan searched for Peter, calling at the addresses of friends who were also staying in Bali. By Wednesday morning he had become deeply concerned, and called at the police station to report a missing person. He was met with indifference, and given a lost luggage form. It was only on his third visit to the station that Jonathan was told, as an afterthought, that a young tourist had been found, apparently drunk, two days earlier. He had been taken to hospital.

Mrs Norton says: "Jonathan thought Peter was going to be sitting on the bed saying: 'How long does it take you, Jonathan?' He found him in intensive care, on a ventilator. The police had given him no idea of the seriousness of the situation."

Peter had a deep wound at the back of his skull, two inches across, as if he had been hit with a piece of pipe.

The medical staff tried to convince Jonathan that his friend had been in a traffic accident.

Things moved quickly after the British consul, Jean Harrod, became involved. Peter was taken by helicopter to Singapore and his parents were notified. Mary, a Bedfordshire midwife, and her husband David, a quantity surveyor, flew to their son's bedside.

Despite the best efforts of the hospital staff Peter died, a week after he had been found in the school yard. He never regained

Her fourth birthday may well be her last, but she isn't ill



She's poor

In countries like the Gambia, one in four children die before their fifth birthday. The diseases they suffer from differ, but the cause is almost always the same.

Every day, ActionAid is working in some of the poorest areas of the world to end this cycle of despair. Helping local communities to provide clean water, education, health, nutrition, food production and a means to generate their own income.

Sponsor a child like Nyama and you'll be helping her, her family and her whole community. A photograph and regular reports keep you in touch. You will receive messages from the child and can write if you wish.

By becoming a sponsor you'll make all the difference to the life of a child like Nyama.

Please sponsor a child today.

☐ Please send me further details about sponsoring a child, or call 0460 61073.  
I am interested in sponsoring a child.  
☐ Africa ☐ Asia ☐ Where there's greatest need.  
☐ I can't sponsor a child now, but enclose a gift of:  
☐ £20 ☐ £100 ☐ £500 ☐ £1,000 ☐ £5,000 ☐ £10,000  
Make cheques payable to ActionAid, and send to: ActionAid, FREEPOST, Church, Somerset TA20 1BR.  
Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel (Day) \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel (Eve) \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIONAID  
A registered charity, No. 246

INSIDE

Letters 2  
Leaders & Comment 3-5  
Obituaries 6-7  
Features 8-9

Fashion 10-11  
After Diana 12  
Arts 13-15  
Finance & Secretarial 16-22

Listings 23-24  
Radio 25  
Satellite TV 25  
Today's TV 26

FINANCE & SECRETARIAL



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

## 'Nerve gas' doubts

Sir: Your report (25 August) about the compound "from the Sudanese pharmaceutical factory" that led to the bombing of that factory needs to be examined critically.

Types of the compound described by you, an ethyl-methyl-phosphorus derivative, can be bought on the open market. If every laboratory which has such a chemical in its possession is to be bombed, then it is goodbye to many chemistry departments in UK, USA and all over the world.

It is essential that investigators prove that the compound was made in the Sudanese factory and that it was made in quantities likely to be useful in the preparation of nerve gases, and for no other reason. I incorporated such compounds in the design of potential platinum anti-cancer drugs thirty years ago.

The public must know the facts about the chemicals concerned in order to feel sure that terrorist targets were attacked and not innocent parties. People worldwide will support the effort to eliminate terrorists, but not random reprisal raids, just to show the ability to strike anybody, anywhere. The USA must come clean, as must our government. Professor R J P WILLIAMS FRS  
Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory  
University of Oxford

Sir: I was interested to read, among the various sources of evidence considered by the US government in justifying the bombing of the factory in Khartoum, the suggestion that "the CIA employed banded migratory birds" in the hope of collecting evidence (report, 25 August).

I had no idea that covert operations had reached such a level of sophistication and I applaud the sheer audacity and imagination of using a flock of hand-picked, highly trained swallows for reconnaissance missions. These plucky feathered heroes brilliantly met their objective of seeking out information on terrorist activities. I think there is more to this than meets the eye. For example, was another team involved at ground level, ostriches perhaps, tasked with objective of illuminating the target with lasers for the US Air Force?

However, maybe now is not the time to press too hard for information about the courageous feats of these operatives. They will no doubt be too exhausted from their long flight and debriefing at Langley. Their story will be told in time. In the meantime, I salute their bravery and rest assured that this bombing was carried out on the basis of rock-solid evidence.

I will now write to the Ministry of Defence to point out the merits of training badgers in tank warfare.  
JONATHAN FAIRCLOUGH  
Basildon, Essex

## Exam results

Sir: All assessment systems make mistakes and are unfair (Letters, 22, 25 August). Different systems are unfair to different people.

The advantages of "big bang" final exams are that all students take the same papers under the same (external) conditions, cheating is difficult and what is assessed (fairly) is what the student has become.

Continuous assessment reduces (peak) stress but can favour students who come from academic backgrounds and enjoy access to expensive aids (books, word-processors etc) throughout their course. *Ceteris paribus*, it advantages those who change the least.

Education and assessment are often incompatible. I prefer to be a continuous educator rather than a continuous assessor - with all of the two-way pressure that entails.  
P K BURGESS  
Department of Psychology  
Dundee University

Sir: Could anyone really be surprised by the fate of Britain's physics departments ("Physics

fails to flourish", 24 August)? In concentrating on the difficulty of the subject, which is unimportant to anyone really interested, your article failed to mention one crucial point: the paltry financial rewards offered by a career in physics. A mind of the quality required adequately to master the discipline will very quickly deduce that it could be put to use far more lucratively elsewhere.

This problem is not new. It made the headlines during the "brain drain" in the late Seventies and early Eighties, but at least we then had world-class facilities to train the brains. Unless physics is rewarded properly in this country, this fascinating and crucial subject will decline into being no more than a hobby to be studied by correspondence once we have provided for ourselves and our families through other means.  
ALEX CARRILLO  
Knutsford, Cheshire

## Spirit of Diana

Sir: Paul Valéry's perceptive analysis of the spiritual impact of the death of Diana (24 August) appears to have overlooked one crucial factor - the symbolism of the accident itself.

Religious leaders have for decades been teaching and struggling against the values of an age in which money, physical beauty and material possessions are set out as the goals to which to aspire. Religious teachers have by and large failed to convince the majority that such ambitions are ultimately futile.

Diana had it all in a modern sense. She had beauty and wealth. She had spent the night before with her lover on a yacht in the Mediterranean, had been whisked to Paris for dinner at the Ritz and was racing through the streets in a fast modern car. Then suddenly, in a brutal instant, it was all over.

Reportedly her last words were "My God! What's happening?" That question is both secular (was she killed by a drunk driver; by the

paparazzi, or was she a victim of a conspiracy?) and spiritual (why does God allow tragedy; what happens after death, what is the purpose of life if it can be snatched away in such a manner?).

In the manner and symbolism of her death Diana forced millions of people to face up to religious questions and, in the week of mourning, enabled millions to discover their own abilities to seek spiritual answers. She did this unobtrusively but nevertheless more eloquently than any contemporary religious teacher had been able to do.  
TED HARRISON  
Sittingbourne, Kent

Sir: I have a laptop computer, which I use for word processing and spreadsheets. In December 1995 I will reset the internal clock to December 1983, so the year 2000 will appear as 1984 (also a leap year). New documents will appear in the file register as having been created in 1984 onwards, but as I did not buy the computer until 1990 this will cause minimal confusion. Finally, I will amend the date format so that the year is not displayed in my documents. This solution is unlikely to solve the worldwide millennium bug problem, but it will keep me going for at least ten years.  
GRAEME STEPHENS  
Newark, Nottinghamshire

Sir: As a cyclist born well after the war, I can tell Mr Harris (Letter, 18 August) that the word "bonk" is still in active use among cyclists although, since the tabloids hijacked it, I have noticed a caution in using the word, especially when new cyclists are present. The word is used in such phrases as "to get the bonk?" or "to be bonked" (run out of energy/"hit the

Sir: No one wants to sponsor the religion section of the Millennium Dome. I take this as heartening news that there are still limits on the commercialisation of life in Britain. But it could also be a strong indicator of the flaw in the materialist system to which our society adheres. We can deliver the goods, but are bankrupt spiritually.

An empty room for the Spirit Section would be perfect and potent symbol of the spiritual vacuity of our culture. No room for the Spirit would be an even stronger sign of how far we have progressed, especially as the calendar whose second

millennium we are marking started with no room at the inn for the birth of Christ.  
The Rev STEPHEN LEEKE  
Warboys, Cambridgeshire

## Jail for paedophiles

Sir: In your leading article "These paedophiles should stay in jail" (24 August), you say that the Government should introduce legislation to enable the behaviour of sex offenders to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and that supervision should be based on this assessment.

## IN BRIEF

mind John Walsh talking about fleas ("Striptease, verse and fleas", 24 August). I also don't mind telling him he hasn't a hope of squashing them with a rolled-up copy of *Homes and Gardens*, or any other blunt instrument for that matter - at least if his dog's fleas are anything like our cats'. The little blighters (the fleas, that is, not the cats) have a hard carapace which has to be squashed between two fingernails or something equally hard and pointed.  
HENRY WICKENS  
Wildbillig, Luxembourg

In hope that the cyclists' language will outlast that of the tabloids.  
JUDY ALLFREY  
Barnet, Hertfordshire

Sir: David Lister, in his review of Robert Redford's film *The Horse Whisperer* (20 August) writes, "Redford has completely changed the ending. In the book..." and he goes on to sum up the film's outcome. Neither my wife nor I are familiar with the book, but we were intending to go and see the film. Mr Lister has spared us from having to drag ourselves down to the cinema and saved us the price of the tickets. Please pass on our grateful thanks.  
DAVID EAGLE  
Edinburgh

Sir: I am middle-class and fairly ordinary, but I don't

This is precisely what we have done. The Crime and Disorder Act introduces Sex Offender Orders which will bring under supervision sex offenders who give cause for concern, regardless of the legislation under which they were originally sentenced. The whole purpose of the order is to prevent further offending. Severe penalties, including imprisonment, are available for those who fail to comply with their Order.

We recognise that this is an area where there are no easy answers and that we may have to do more. But the Government has made a bold start and brought about a significant shift in the way sex offenders are handled in the community and by the criminal justice system. Our priority is to protect children and vulnerable adults. The police and probation services are responding magnificently to that challenge.  
ALUN MICHAEL  
Minister of State  
Home Office  
London SW1

## Since you asked ...

Sir: William Hartston's concern about "ask" as a noun ("Words", 24 August) is misplaced.

In programming, an ask is a single act of putting a question. The programmer cannot and should not know the nature of the question put by the program-user. The word is used in the same manner as the nouns "call" and "put". These last two the argot of programmers is shared with that of market-makers. I am sure I recall, from my days in market trading, that "ask" was also used as a noun, although none of my dictionaries records this fact.

This development, if it is one, should be welcomed for adding precision and eliminating ambiguity. The nouns "ask", "question" and "questioning" each have different meanings both in singular and plural forms.  
R J G MACY  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

## Lockerbie trial

Sir: The British government, to its credit, guarantees the two Libyans accused of complicity in the Lockerbie bombing justice and a fair trial, without a jury and outside Scotland (report, 24 August).

For years the relatives were told the truth could not be revealed lest it prejudice the jury. With no jury to prejudice it is now the turn of the victims and relatives to be shown the same justice and fairness as the accused.

The Government has the duty to publish without delay the evidence and the truth about the tragedy. If it does not, the agony of the relatives will be compounded by rumours and suspicions.

MARTIN CADMAN  
Burnham Market  
Norfolk  
The writer's son, Bill Cadman, was on Flight 103

## Grandchild's rights

Sir: I Collins (Letters, 22 August) asks, "When will there be legal rights for grandchildren and grandparents to have contact?"

Surprisingly, perhaps, these are already contained within the Children Act, 1989.

In reality, the judiciary generally believe that this contact should take place complementary to that of the non-resident parent. Also, contact is often not adequately enforced by the courts, who shy from using the sanctions available within the Act.

Grandparents could qualify for legal aid if their income amounts to little more than the state pension. In addition they could consider representing themselves in the family courts.

Families Need Fathers have a significant grandparent membership and would be able to offer assistance.  
JOHN BEALE  
London N6

## Love thy neighbour

Sir: Gregg Stevens asserts that Baruch Goldstein, the fanatic who murdered 29 Palestinians at prayer in Hebron, is "reviled by his own society" (Letter, 24 August).

He forgets that the lasting legacy of his actions (apart from a deep bitterness in the families of the dead) is a large, marble monument erected in Hebron by the grateful settlers to honour his memory.

If Muslim countries were helped to develop education and freedom of speech by the great powers rather than continually vilified in the Western press, it is more than likely that there would be no call among disaffected, unemployed Muslim youth for the "eradication of Western culture".

But encouraging such cultural shifts would take time, and win no votes at election time for democratic leaders anxious to prove their mettle.

We have not learned to love our neighbours: we are still stuck with the vengeful mentality of the Old Testament which started this same vendetta thousands of years ago.  
CHRISTOPHER STEWART  
Cambridge

## Save or spend?

Sir: The rather sour comments of W J Hyde (Letter, 22 August) seem to be based upon a misunderstanding. There may be a minimum amount of tax it is necessary to raise from individuals in total but never an absolute amount, so one person's "tax break" is not subsidised by another's increase.

Rather, taxation is affected by economic management factors, including incentives to save rather than spend. It is this that has created PEPs and TESSAs; any investment made in them must come from income that has already been subject to income tax. There is no question of giving those that choose to save tax revenues taken from anyone else.  
R J CROWE  
London W3

## And now for an A N Wilson - but don't try this at home

IT'S THE time of the year when letters start coming in from eager young things about to embark upon that hot academic discipline of our time, Media Studies. They've passed their exams. They've chosen their core modules - usually the films of Quentin Tarantino or a deconstruction of the Papa-Nicole advertising campaign. Now they have to select at least one course related in some way to the written word. Some choose the style novel, others the press release. All too many opt for a foundation course in column-writing.

Goodness knows, one tries to be encouraging, but the naivety of these people is nothing short of frightening. They seem to believe that a columnist gets up in the morning, makes a cup of coffee and just sort of "writes". Not for a mo-

ment do they consider that, like any other aspect of the modern media, the creation of a column is a complex, highly sophisticated form of communication involving a vast network of technical support systems and research engines.

Admittedly, the profession is less of a closed shop than it used to be. Until recently, the Guild of Columnists insisted upon a three-year apprenticeship of local training before one was allowed to take a sideways look at life on a national scale. Some of us found nothing wrong with this system: writing captions for the legendary "Beautiful Baby" competition in the *Diss Express* or venturing a hard-hitting critique of the Hedgehog Rescue scheme for the *Bury Free Press* never did me any harm. By the time an 800-word mood piece concern-

ing the decline of the brown hare caught the eye of a features editor, I was ready for my big break.

Today it's all different. A few questions - "Can you get a table at the Pharmacy using their private VIP line?" "Do you know Will Self and/or Ta-Palmer-Jonkinson?" "Are you pretty?" - and you're in. Such is progress.

Interestingly, it's the question of subject matter which most intrigues the students. "How do you know what to write about?" they ask, as if writing a column involved sitting down and thinking very hard! The truth, of course, is that all of us depend upon a comprehensive back-up service, that much of the craft of the job lies in knowing how to use the technology.

The initial process is simple enough. On the morning of a col-



TERENCE BLACKER

'How do you know what to write about?' they ask, as if writing a column involved thinking!

umn, one goes on-line, accessing the relevant website (<http://www.columnaid>) and punching up the

subjects of the day. Today, for example, almost all my colleagues will be looking at available themes under the "Princess" heading. Glancing at the many hundreds of lines, I can see that several - "Caring nation?", "Death of charity", "Top 10 conspiracy theories" - have been taken, while one or two - "The caring face of Al Fayed", "Time to give paparazzi a break?" - remain available.

Because there's fantastic rivalry for these headline themes, with some columnists getting up as early as 7am to reserve one, or "bag a line" as it's known in the trade, other columnists will be opting for lighter subject-matter.

Scrolling down, I see "Posh and Pregnant" ("Scary - the truth about unmarried showbiz mums", "The bulge as design accou-

trement?", "Is this the end of marriage?", "Fitz - Fab or Fat-cat?", "Are women taking over broadcasting?", "The irresistible rise of confessional TV", "The bulge as design accoutrement"). Relatively unpopular are "Cool Britannia Reaches Track and Field" and "Porn or Politically Correct? The Fringe Exposed".

But the problem with reducing columns to this simple form is that students become convinced that, with basic computer skills and an introduction to Will Self, virtually anyone can do it. They fail to see that choosing a columnar personality is as complex as the selection of a role for an actor. Should you be the old-fashioned lefty betrayed by Blair or the ever-popular no-nonsense voice of commonsense? What happens if,

having elected to write a sickeningly frank running commentary on your miserable home life and incipient nervous collapse, you enter a disastrously contented phase?

Finally, there's the question of opinions. It's not enough merely to have strongly-held views on virtually everything; your views must change rapidly and unpredictably, so that, at any given moment, they will baffle and enrage even the most loyal readers. A master of the column, notably the great A N Wilson, can actually take a position, oppose himself, and end up where he first started, all within the same article.

But this is a complex and dangerous manoeuvre, running a high risk of rupture, and should only be attempted by third-year students.

Miles Kingston is on holiday



# THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435  
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

## Don't legislate in haste only to repent later

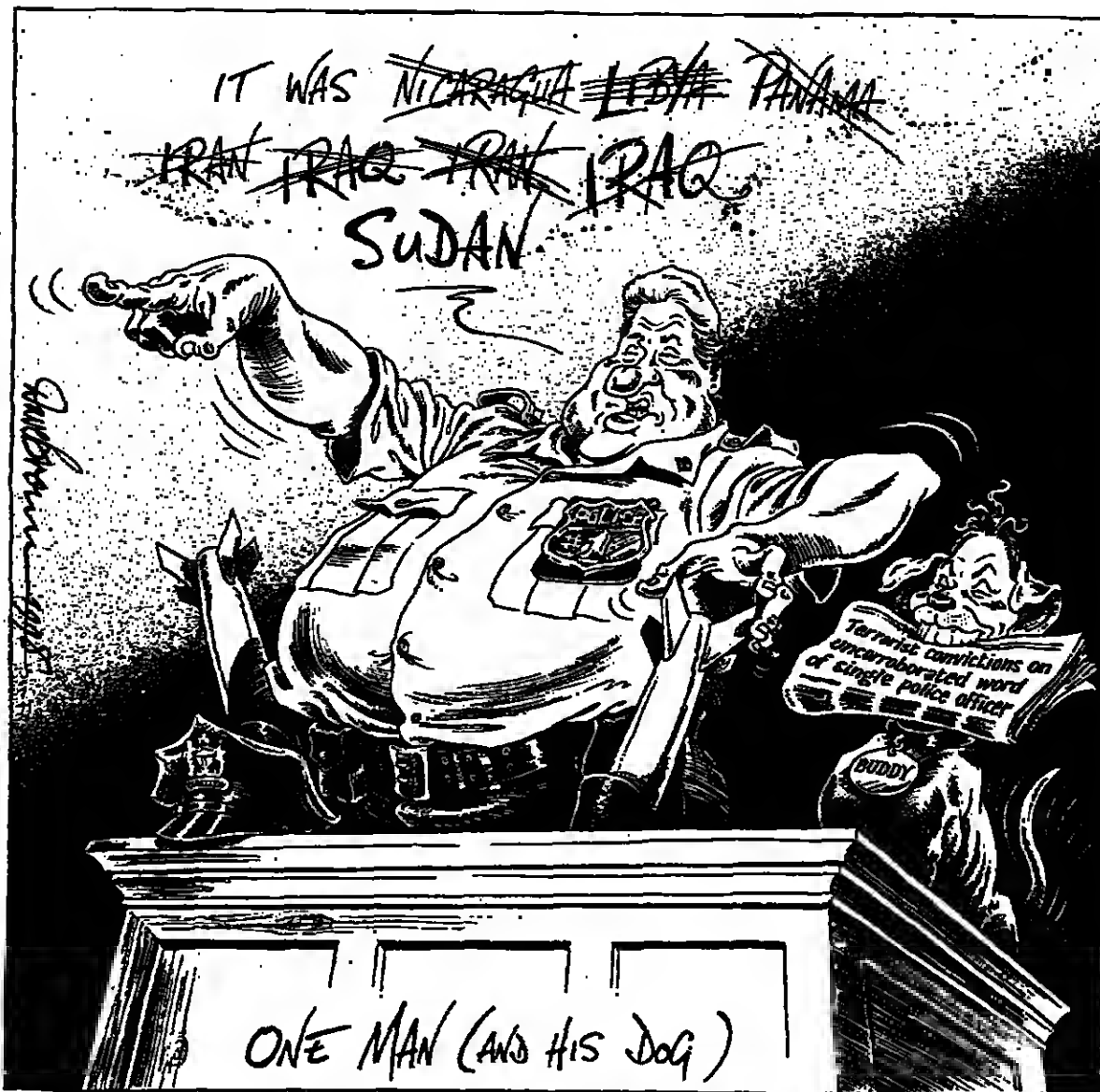
BAD LAWS, as Edmund Burke said, are the worst sort of tyranny. MPs would do well to remember it when they reconvene to discuss the legislation deemed necessary to capture the Omagh bombers. Too often the proposition that terrorist suspects have civil liberties is regarded as being somehow frivolous or peripheral, or in some cases even treacherous. But this is to miss the point entirely: if civil liberties don't apply to everyone they don't really apply at all.

London and Dublin are co-operating more closely in this than ever before, we are told. And here is the rub: in the aftermath of a tragedy such as Omagh, the "do something" brigade are always vocal. It is, after all, human nature to want something positive to come from something negative, imposing order on an otherwise chaotic moral universe.

Dublin had already acted and been seen to take the lead on the issue so, in making yesterday's announcement, London was, implicitly, following suit (a political necessity, but regrettable from the standpoint of the Prime Minister). Coupled with the fact that the issues themselves are often perceived as esoteric, something harsh was called for. And why just deal with things quietly in Whitehall, when you can tear MPs away from toe-twiddling on beaches and be seen to be acting? Especially during the August news hundra.

There are practical reasons why these new measures may be mistaken. There is a dangerous assumption in the air that the Omagh bomb is somehow going to be the last big atrocity of the troubles. This is a mistake, and a stupid one at that. We should not fall into the trap, as people living snugly at the end of a millennium, of thinking that each incident is the defining one, each moment more significant than the last. As with weather statistics that make everything the worst or the best since records began, we debase the currency of debate by making such assumptions. And nor should such a bogus belief be used as a pretext on which to hang infringements of civil liberties - even unconsciously.

The war against terrorism in Ireland and elsewhere will carry on, probably indefinitely. This will not be the last time the Government is asked to make a choice between less liberty or the status quo under these circumstances. While not wanting to become jaded, we should deal with this fact in a grown-up manner rather than being flung from one set of circumstances to another, constantly surprised by them. We should seek to develop ways of dealing with the perpetrators



that bolster, rather than undermine, the case for a liberal democracy.

There is also the danger of the Government appearing short-termist and hasty: after the bombing of Afghanistan and Sudan comes the piling of terrorist suspects with legal tomatoes. Allowing someone to be convicted of membership of a banned organisation, on the testimony of one policeman, seems a very bad idea under any circumstances - more so in Ireland now, when so many old personal scores remain unsettled.

And, by the way, isn't it worth remembering that three suspects arrested immediately after the Omagh bomb were subsequently released - presumably because

there was a lack of evidence with which to condemn them? Under the new measures, would they still be languishing in a cell?

Also, when it comes to implementation, the distinct possibility exists of a credibility gap, caused by having a policy that is apparently going in two directions at the same time. Convicted terrorists are being released from jail and internment has been discarded. Yet strategic decision-making in the Northern Ireland Office must surely have been unravelled by yesterday's announcements.

Yes, Mr Blair: this is a war and it must be won. But we should guard against overkill.

## A self-induced tartan nightmare

THAT TONY Blair is to make yet another of his morale boosting trips to Scotland this Thursday speaks volumes about the panicky mood in the Labour camp. The cause of the panic can be summed up in three letters: SNP. Despite a "summer offensive" against the Nats, Mr Blair's party still trail them in the polls. Labour has long regarded Scotland as its fiefdom and their predicament is as unfamiliar as it is uncomfortable.

Mr Blair might be forgiven for asking how such a rotten state of affairs could have come about. Can he not claim Scottish roots? Did he not deliver devolution to the Scottish people? Has he not appointed Scots to important positions in his government? Is not his own spin doctor, Alastair Campbell, a bagpipe enthusiast? What's gone wrong?

Mr Blair, though, should not be so bewildered. Today, Labour is seen in Scotland as an essentially English party. It is a product of New Labour's obsession to the point of mania with the priorities of middle England. The Scottish Labour Party has been simply told to make a pledge not to use the discretion allowed to a Scottish Parliament to vary the rate of income tax. The irony of Labour's freakish preoccupation with central control of party affairs whilst spouting the rhetoric of devolution hasn't been lost on the Scottish voters. Neither has Labour's appallingly sleazy record in local government gone without notice.

Mr Blair once, rather unwisely, dismissed the new Scottish Parliament as little more important than a parish council. Now, though, the Prime Minister has perhaps realised that the direction of Scottish politics is not such a trivial business. If Labour fail to win power at the first elections to the Scottish Parliament next year this will break the spell of New Labour invulnerability, damage Mr Blair's image as a "winner" and, crucially, place in jeopardy the chances of a second term of office. No wonder he's a wee bit worried.

## Medical compassion

THE RETURN of the bedside manner is much to be desired. So it is nice to have the Council of the Deans of the Medical Schools recommending a move away from purely academic means of selecting students.

The arrogance displayed in recent medical negligence cases is part of a culture which views patients as intellectual problems, rather than as people. Any moves, like the Deans', are welcome moves to attack this problem at the roots.

# Political correctness has not gone nearly far enough yet

THE NOTTING HILL carnival approaches, and it is to the eternal benefit of the Carnival that, for this year at least, prominent Tory politicians are likely to keep their baseball bats firmly in the cupboard. If past form is anything to go by, some sections of the media will take the festivities as their annual opportunity to examine the state of "race relations" in Britain. The Windrush celebrations this year have led to a revealing and often emotional discussion of the experiences of Britain's black population. But such a mature discussion is all too rare.

Take one example, the National Union of Students. One of the most amazing developments of recent years has been that the NUS has energetically directed its anti-racism campaign against a tiny group of Islamic fundamentalists whom, the student leaders claim, are the main cause of racism in the colleges. I am sure that this group are, in all likelihood, deeply reactionary, but to take up this problem as part of an anti-racism campaign, when the main problem of racism in our society is against the black communities, not caused by them, is bizarre.

This confused response to racism is thankfully less prevalent in the thinking of the Government. A little-noticed story which has bubbled away for a month but never really received the coverage it should have, is extremely good news for those of us who have argued that racism has got to be tackled positively. At the beginning of this month, Jack Straw announced that the Government has ordered the adoption of a 12-month race equality action plan after being

shocked by the results of research into attitudes of the 10,700 Home Office staff. In focus groups, some Home Office managers were quoted as saying: "If you're a racist it is a bloody good job" and "Nigerians are the worst thieves in the world. If a Nigerian said 'Nice day', I'd go outside and check". Managers are also accused of engaging in racist banter and victimisation of black staff.

The Government's response commits the Home Office to providing a day's racial awareness and equal opportunities training for top management, a new complaints scheme, targets for recruitment and promotion and improvements to job vacancy advertising, selection and promotion. A leaflet has been circulated to departmental staff, and the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office said: "A more concerted, systematic and sustained effort is needed."

No doubt the anti-political correctness lobby will be squirming out of the woodwork as I write. There is virtually no more insidious phrase in social policy debate than political correctness. An American import, its brilliant tactic is to label anyone who thinks we should do anything about racism, sexism or homophobia as "PC", thus meaning that we don't have to listen to them. In fact, anyone who suggests discrimination even exists is deemed to be "intolerant", "humourless", "Stalinist", "fascist" or "patronising". The most ridiculous manifestation of this debate are the thousands of column inches devoted to the "crisis of masculinity" we are all meant to be experiencing because women are supposedly taking over. Men are apparently feeling unappreciated, and

now everyone is meant to feel sorry for us. The anti-PC lobby is just a reactionary backlash against legitimate gains made by blacks, women and gays

At the Greater London Council we tried our best to take our obligations under the Race Relations Act seriously. We established an ethnic minorities committee, which was much derided at the time. It is clear from reading the comments of senior civil servants in the Home Office that they have come to many of the same conclusions about tackling racism in their department that the ethnic minorities committee came to then. Through the adoption of an equal opportunities policy, backed up with

positive action, the GLC introduced compulsory equality training for all interviewing staff, ethnic origin monitoring linked to equality targets, new grievance procedures and an imaginative "Second Chance" training programme.

Through such measures the proportion of ethnic minority employees increased from 8 per cent in 1988 to 11 per cent in mid-1995. That success, if the GLC had not been abolished, would have still had some way to go before we came close to 18 per cent, which was at that time the proportion of ethnic minority Londoners.

The question for the cynics is: what would you do instead? At the GLC we tried to deal with the poor employment of black people in the fire brigade, which had just six black fire fighters in 1981 and more than 100 by mid-1995. Not a massive number out of 7,000 in total, but it would not have happened at all if the siren voices of the cynics had been listened to.

Jack Straw's initiative is timely in the light of the amazing revelations of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, which has served to underline the crisis of confidence that exists amongst the black communities towards so many institutions, none more so than the Metropolitan Police. The relationship between the police and the black communities is at an all time low. As the National Assembly Against Racism points out, "the perception of the black communities is that the police are racist, aggressive and increasingly corrupt". Evidence submitted to the Lawrence inquiry on stop-and-search figures and black deaths in police custody only reinforces that feeling.

Home Office national figures show that black people are nearly eight times more likely to be stopped and searched by the police than white people, with the Metropolitan Police stopping and searching 189 black people per 1,000 of the black population, compared to a national average of all stops and searches of 17 per 1,000 people. These searches have doubled during the last 10 years, and half of them are in London.

A Home Office report by the Police Research Group published on the day after Jack Straw's announcement of the Race Equality Action Plan showed that black people were disproportionately likely to die in police custody, particularly as a result of police action. Of the 32 deaths linked to police or other official action between 1990 and 1996, nine were of black people.

The worst thing is, the more you look at the statistics, the worse things seem. The low number of black police officers; the even lower number of senior black police officers; the negligible number of police officers who have been disciplined for wrongful arrest, racist abuse and harassment of black people; the disproportionately high black prison population; the level of racist harassment and intimidation which goes unreported. It is a mountain of shameful figures, and sitting on top of it is the symbolic failure of the authorities to bring anyone to justice for the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

Are we going to let it carry on or are we going to follow the Home Secretary's example with his race equality action plan for Home Office staff and take the first fundamental step: accept that the problem exists?



**KEN LIVINGSTONE**  
*The anti-PC lobby is just a reactionary backlash against the gains made by blacks, women and gays*

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
World opinion on Russia's political turmoil



squabbling and economic chaos has begun.  
*Russia Today, Moscow*

WHEN PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin signed the decree appointing Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister, the ailing Russian leader could well have been playing out the last act of his remarkable political career. Giving Chernomyrdin unprecedented powers as the belt apparent could make for a more stable government but it will also slow attempts to take

the fiscal measures needed to stabilise Russia's finances.  
*Moscow Times*

WHILE HE may lack ideas on how to tackle Russia's never-ending problems, Mr Yeltsin is never slow when it comes to claiming it wasn't his fault. But most Russians long ago stopped believing that the man at the top is not to blame. They now see him as a buffoon who has presided over the wholesale decline of the country.  
*South China Morning Post*

IT TURNED out that President Yeltsin was not changing horses in mid-course, but changing parachutes during a jump - which, it goes without saying, is a risky matter.  
*Izvestia, Moscow*

BORIS YELTSIN's reappointment of a prime minister he fired only five months ago seems an act of desperation. When he cashiered Viktor Chernomyrdin in March, Mr Yeltsin derided the long-serving premier as a spent

RUSSIANS SICK of watching their country speed through crisis after crisis like a roller-coaster with ruined brakes had better brace themselves. In firing the government, Yeltsin has forced Russia to retrace the same stretch of track

it covered five months ago. He has developed a bad habit of firing staff members whenever one of them threatens to steal his limelight - and whenever he wishes to create the impression

that he really is doing something about the economy. Many passengers in the roller-coaster must be asking themselves if yet another downward spiral of political

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am well, but in space it is better."  
Yuri Baturin,  
Russian cosmonaut, returning to Earth  
to find the trouble devolved  
and a new government

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Remember that the sanctity of life in the hill villages of Afghanistan is an inviolable in the eyes of Almighty God as can be your own."  
William Gladstone,  
British Prime Minister

## THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Indian Tiger by Philip Meech  
Ref: 00108

TO ORDER A 12"x9" PRINT OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE, FOR £15 MADE PAYABLE TO THE INDEPENDENT. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND QUOTE THE REFERENCE NUMBER UNDERNEATH THE PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPHS, THE INDEPENDENT, 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL (ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY)

Photographs published in The Independent can be purchased by calling Independent Photographs on 0171-293 2534, subject to copyright and availability



## PANDORA

THE LAST time Robin Cook tried to go off on holiday - to Colorado - he was stopped by colleagues at the airport as the story of his extramarital affair was about to break. Today our Foreign Secretary sets off - with his new wife - on a richly deserved fortnight's vacation in France. However, he won't be coming back to Westminster when it ends, but will be accompanying the Queen on her state visit to Malaysia and Brunei. Last time Cook travelled East with the Queen - to India - he departed a bit early, causing his critics to accuse him of abandoning the Sovereign to return to his mistress. It's likely he'll be sticking right by her Majesty's side for the duration of this time, then winging back to that fantastic Brighton conference.

IT'S STILL a month away but Pandora can't believe the mounting excitement. This year's Labour Party conference is promising to be a true extravaganza, although its timing does present a potential problem for Jewish party members. The Prime Minister will be addressing the conference on Tuesday, 29 September, which also marks the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest holiday in the Hebrew calendar, when religious Jews will want to begin fasting by 6.30pm, to attend synagogue and be with their families. Fortunately, Tony Blair's speech should be finished earlier in the afternoon. It remains to be seen, however, if Blair's speech will draw inspiration from this, the Jewish Day of Atonement, when repentance for your sins is required. Pandora doubts it, but wouldn't that be a wonderful surprise?

MANDY'S AFTER-HOURS shopping spree in the Conran Shop should have set new standards of customer service for British shopkeepers everywhere. Pandora wondered how the new President of the Board of Trade would fare, were he to indulge in the same sort of leisurely evening patronage back home in his Cleveland constituency? "Any particular night in mind?" asked George Skinner, the genial manager of Povey Carpets, in Hartlepool. "I'm normally here late anyway," he assured Pandora. "Sundays as well."

BOW REASSURING to hear that the Titanic star Leonardo DiCaprio has

changed his mind and turned down a \$20m starring role in the film version of Bret Easton Ellis's novel *American Psycho*. The voyeuristic, blood-and-designer-label-soaked account of a yuppie serial murderer, *American Psycho* struck many critics as the worst sensationalist tripe to come along in many years. The film was first planned as a low-budget production, but once DiCaprio was aboard there was talk of a \$40m budget, with Oliver Stone directing. Now that Leonardo has headed for the lifeboats, *American Psycho* looks destined to end up where it belongs - snuk out of sight.

PANDORA RECENTLY reported on the domestic bliss of the film stars Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke (pictured below), whose baby girl arrived earlier this summer. The DIY newbies were renovating their new country house up in Sneden's Landing, New York. But that's over now. After just six months, they have put the \$1.35m residence, "Ding Dong House", back on the market. One tabloid ventured that this might be because the house is haunted. In fact, the town is haunted by celebrities, past and present - Al Pacino, William Hurt, Bill Murray... Indeed "Ding Dong House" was the home, at various times, of the composer Aaron Copland, the choreographer Jerome Robbins and the psychologically troubled Superman actress Margot Kidder. Ding dong ding. On second thoughts, Uma and Ethan are staying put in Manhattan.

DOES ACUPUNCTURE on the 29th floor of Guy's Hospital sound like a tempting night out? Acupuncture is apparently a "leisure trainer" company. Most of the celebrities it invited to Monday night's leisure party for its new trainers decided to give the evening's entertainment involved sticking a plaster on part of your anatomy and then taking a photograph of it. This concept, as conveyed in a TV advertisement, has been found to be broadcast. A photo of one specific anatomical feature, minus the plaster, might not reflect acupuncture's bottom line, but it would mirror the firm's PR finesse.



## A slurp of the fat cats' cream



HUNTER DAVIES

No one gives to the poor. That would be silly. You might catch something, such as their poorness

I WON'T hear a word against Fat Cats. They are so kind, so generous, so thoughtful, have given me so much entertainment and amusement. And money. Almost every day last week North West Water (NWW) has sent me £5 - for no reason whatsoever. It's like winning the Lottery without taking part.

The money comes with a letter from Roy Rumba. I think that's his name. His signature is impossible to read, and it's not printed out underneath, but he is apparently Customer Operations Manager for NWW, West Cumbria division. In each letter, he thanks me for "my patience during the last few weeks". No problem, Roy. Just keep sending the money.

It's all to do, I think, with the tap water turning nasty in Cockermouth, eight miles away from where we live in Lakeside. There were loudhailers in the street, and leaflets in several languages (which amused the locals, as there is no ethnic community in Cockermouth, unless you count foreigners from Carlisle), warning people not to use the water. The result was mild panic. Shops ran out of bottled water. I have a friend, Jan, with

a restaurant in Cockermouth and he was told not even to wash his vegetables in tap water. Ugly rumours poured chemicals in the water? More trouble at Sellafield?

We in Loweswater were not affected. So why are we being sent £5 and an apology? Or in my case, four £5's? Other locals have had two or three fivers, but I'm doing best so

far. At least I thought I was. A farmer up the fells behind us has also had a fiver - and he doesn't even have any water. Not in the NWW sense. His water comes from his own spring.

Each morning the bells ring to the sound of merry laughter as we all rush out to compare notes. How much have you got today? I say, three cheers for North West Water. In this nasty wet summer, it has cheered us up. Thank you, NWW.

"I hope you'll give it to a poor person," said my wife virtuously when the first lot arrived. You mean the poor chap who washes my Jag, or one of the shepherds looking after the Herdwicks in my fields, or one of the gardeners staff in my orchard? No chance, I said.

When you are rich, free things bring enormous pleasure. And the richer you are, the more free things you get. I remember sitting with John Lennon and watching his excitement as he tore open parcels of presents from total strangers, or when Paul McCartney stayed with us on holiday. Local shops immediately sent him enormous boxes of food and wine. No one gives to poor

people. That would be silly. You might catch something, such as their poorness. But if you give to the rich and famous, some of it might rub off on you.

At this very moment, Michael Owen is about to get a brand new Jaguar sports car, tied up with ribbons. Outside his front door, another nubile girl is waiting to be unwrapped. Does he need them? Does he heckers.

The NWW people have obviously realised how well off I am, observed my lovely house, seen my Jag in the drive, so the call has gone out, keep in with Hunt, shower him with money. It comes in the form of £5 vouchers which can be used at around 90 High Street shops. Boots in Cockermouth have razors on special offer at present, two for the price of one. I now have enough razors to last me till I'm 157.

But why are they doing it? There could be other reasons.

1) It is a plot of Northumbria Water or Scottish Water. They want to take over NWW, so have started a campaign to make NWW look totally stupid and useless by sending out money in their name.

2) It's an eccentric millionaire. I read some years ago about a wealthy bloke who was so fed up with his squabbling family that just before he died, he opened the telephone directory at random and left all his money to the first ten names he saw. This could be happening again.

3) It's a new TV show. They are secretly filming everyone in Loweswater as they rush out, clutching their free money. My wife is probably a plant. When she said "Are you giving to the poor?" the mini video camera was actually in her pinny pocket.

4) It's a total cock-up by NWW. That's probably the likeliest explanation.

Four days ago I faxed Roy Rumba, asking for an explanation. In his letter, he says it was "exceptionally heavy rain" in the first week of August causing a local stream, Park Beck, to burst its banks. Now it so happens that his beck is just five minutes from me and I know for a fact its bank was broken back in May. Very mysterious. In the meantime we must be grateful. It does make waiting for the postman each day awfully exciting.

## It's legalised internment - but welcome across Ireland



DAVID MCKITTRICK

Three decades of restrictive legislation have failed to crush the paramilitary groups

IN ANY civilised country the idea of a defendant being sent to jail simply on the say-so of a police officer would ordinarily be greeted with astonishment, grave concern and sustained outcry. Centuries of legal theory have been built on the principle that laws should not simply be instruments of the state but must also protect the rights of the individual: that individuals should be regarded as innocent until proven guilty.

The new laws being readied for Ireland north and south appear to contain the extraordinary provision that individuals will henceforth be treated as guilty until declared innocent. There will be a trial but the evidence may take the form of an assertion rather than the meticulous building of a case. On one reading this is close to legalised internment.

The Irish have a reputation for being agnate the law, and certainly many thousands from both the republican and loyalist traditions have broken it on numerous occasions over the years. Yet the new measures were yesterday producing not an outcry but a widespread welcome. Indeed a historically broad welcome throughout these islands.

All sides in Ireland cherry-pick the law. Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin complained yesterday of harshness in the new measures, but had nothing to say on the question of the IRA's continuing punishment beatings, one of which last month resulted in a man's death.

The representatives of Unionism always favour ever more numerous and more stringent laws, though they generally envisage them being used against republicans. The recent Drumree confrontation saw tens of thousands of acts of loyalist law-breaking which went uncondemned by most Unionist politicians, and indeed by most Protestant clergymen.

It is among Irish nationalists and among republicans in particular that reactions become even more complex. Purist republicans have a pretty straightforward view, which is that Britain has no right to pass any laws at all in Ireland.

But many Catholics and nationalists, while accepting British law, have found much fault with their operation. The Prevention of Terrorism Act, hurried through parliament after the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings, has been deeply unpopular. In recent years the PTA has been shown to have contributed to major miscarriages of justice such as the cases of the Birmingham 5, Guildford 4 and others.

The nationalist contention is that Britain too has cherry-picked the law. The authorities insist, for example, that soldiers guilty of wrongdoing are treated exactly the same as other citizens. Yet the conviction rate of soldiers prosecuted for the most serious offences has been vanishingly small.

Individual laws and indeed the whole system of justice in Northern

Ireland have clearly been the cause of deep divisions of opinion. There is scope for many learned legal and political treatises on the effect of emergency laws during the troubles.

One argument is that many legal measures, such as internment without trial in the 1970s, were counter-productive and brought the law into disrepute. Others will contend that the huge swathes of emergency legislation placed on the statute book greatly assisted in combating and containing terrorism.

It has to be said, though, that the political movement and progress of recent years would seem to have been brought about through enlightened politics rather than restrictive legislation. Three decades of all that law has not crushed the paramilitary groups: they are still out there. The counter-argument, that it was the strength of the law which led Sinn Féin and others to sue for peace, will be debated by historians for decades.

But the terms of debate on new legislation have today changed utterly: the old pattern of London bringing in more laws while Dublin frets that they may do more harm than good has gone. This is because of two things: the Good Friday agreement and the Omagh bombing.

The new laws actually go against the logic of the agreement, which set up a review of emergency legislation with a view to relaxing it. But Omagh changed that mindset. It achieved exactly the opposite of what the bombers intended as it brought the two governments closer together.

There could hardly be a stronger symbol shared determination than the simultaneous recall of the two parliaments which will take place on Wednesday next. That double event will be unprecedented, yet in another



The Maze prison, seen by some as a symbol of repression

sense the process is a familiar one in Irish history.

What happens is that those using violence against the system are given a chance to enter it. If they do, they eventually become conventional politicians, sometimes going on to become prime minister or president.

Those who refuse this offer and stick to their guns are left politically exposed and susceptible to all the system can throw at them. What follows is a sometimes merciless mopping-up, with more than a few dissenters executed, sometimes by former comrades.

This is the position of the Real IRA: friendless, bereft of sympathy, opponents of the Good Friday agreement. They are rebels without a cause and practically all of Ireland wants them locked up.

Over all the years Sinn Féin and the IRA were never defeated by all that emergency legislation, largely because more than 100,000 voters in Northern Ireland regarded them not as terrorists but as political ac-

tivists who used violence. The logic of the move into politics by the mainstream republicans is that they would come to condone the suppression of republican die-hards. But there is much unease in the republican camp, for all this is happening too soon for Sinn Féin.

It wanted less emergency legislation, not more; it will worry that the new law might be used against some of its own people: it is watching the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which it sometimes disdained, embedding itself in the new system. But their reservations, and those of people who worry about human rights, are being swept away in the wave of revision which followed the Omagh bombing.

The new laws will go through, and defendants charged with Real IRA membership will be summarily dispatched to prison. In reality they are not going to be jailed merely on the word of a police officer, but by the will of two parliaments which represent the demand of their people that there should be no more Omaghs.

## A new vision for absent fathers



PODIUM

HELEN WILKINSON

From a speech made to the Commonwealth Fund by its Harkness Fellow

MANY NON-RESIDENT fathers want to remain active players in their children's lives, but to date our culture and our policies have not encouraged this. The 1991 Child Support Act makes fathers financially responsible for their children but has had little to say about their role as caretakers and custodians of their children's future. Partly as a consequence, many non-resident fathers feel excluded from their children's lives and cope with this by reneging on their child support payments or becoming increasingly distanced from their children, a process with adverse consequences for the health of both parties.

As the perverse effects of the Act come to the fore, pressure to increase child support collections will increase as attention turns to tackling child poverty and reducing financial costs to the state. We should anticipate the adoption of vigorous child support enforcement techniques such as aggressive campaigns to establish paternity, revocation of drivers' licences for non-payment of child support, and naming and shaming advert-

isements modelled on the American experience.

Pressures to reform the system will also mount because of awareness in the policy-making community of the financial and emotional costs incurred when fathers are not present in the lives of their children. As boys continue to underperform in schools, attention is already turning to the causes of male underachievement and to the impact of fathers' absence on boys.

Measures aimed at strengthening the ties that bind non-resident fathers to their children will rise to the top of the domestic policy agenda. Today's Government speaks the rhetoric of deadbeat dads and emphasises only the financial responsibilities of non-resident fathers, tomorrow's policy debate will emphasise fathers' nurturing responsibilities as well.

Pressure will mount for policy makers to develop "one-stop shopping", a single point of access whereby everything related to the breaking up of a household - finance, access and issues related to parental visits - can be dealt with holistically, regardless of the mar-

thing to go by, tomorrow's policy-makers will be changing their own assumptions, bringing fathers into the family equation in unprecedented ways. The direction of family policy, which has historically marginalised fathers and concentrated on the mother/child dyad, will have to be reframed, the emphasis as much on shifting gender cultures within the bureaucracies, and the culture at large, as on programmes and policies.

Policy-makers will need to retain women's confidence. Women who have had negative experiences with their men are often reluctant to allow them back into their lives. However, innovative "team parenting" initiatives in America have achieved some success in involving fathers and mothers as stakeholders in their children's future. Multi-agency fatherhood task forces at community and national level could become commonplace in Britain, as could media awareness campaigns actively promoting the virtues of involved fatherhood, and involving sports figures, a technique used to great effect in America with such catchy headlines as

"Fatherhood is a contact sport" and "Be a hero to your child. Pay child support".

Popular culture has best captured the emotional landscape of non-resident fathers. The Hollywood movie *Mrs Doubtfire* is emblematic of the plight of many middle-class dads. In a clever inversion of the Victorian "guilty wife" who returns in disguise as a governess to see her children, the male character played by Robin Williams is reduced to dressing up in drag and masquerading as a nanny as the only means of gaining meaningful access to his children.

Closer to home, the working-class hero of *The Full Monty* takes a job as a male stripper to pay his ex-girlfriend child support which will enable him to continue seeing his son. In the end he discovers a new masculinity by proving to his disgruntled ex that he can be a responsible father.

Here we see men rejecting cultural stereotypes, and finding innovative ways of maintaining their relationships with their children. Policy-makers should capitalise on these value shifts in the future.

## THE INDEPENDENT BREATHING SOLES

£9.95 per pair inc p&amp;p

These new, innovative Breathing Soles are like a built-in air conditioning system for shoes, guaranteed to cool your feet with every step and keep them dry. As you walk, your heel presses down on the cushioned air compressor at the rear of the sole generating a waft of refreshing cool air from the channels in the insole and toe area. Breathing Soles also provide additional heel and arch support. They are easy to insert - you simply remove the existing insole from your shoe and replace it with the Breathing Sole.

They are available in sizes 3 - 12 and are excellent value at just £9.95 a pair including postage and packing.



HOW TO ORDER  
Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order. NO CASH please to

THE INDEPENDENT BREATHING SOLES OFFER.  
PO Box 5477, London E3 2SH.

FOR ACCESS/VISA ORDERS, PLEASE PHONE 071 510 8191  
Or for enquiries, please call 071 510 0193.

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Please send me: Soleth Size: \_\_\_\_\_ @ £9.95 each inc p&p

I enclose a crossed cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (address on back) or payable by: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING LTD 006572 or debit my Access/Visa account by this amount. My card number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: THE INDEPENDENT BREATHING SOLES OFFER, PO Box 5477, London E3 2SH.

Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing Ltd or companies approved by New Paper Publishing Ltd.

YES? ☐ NO? ☐



# Act now to save our hedges



**CHRISTOPHER BROCKLEBANK-FOWLER**

*Those of us who live in the country have seen 30 years of rural vandalism by farmers and councils*

VISITORS TO the British countryside, at this time of year, can be forgiven for thinking that the rural idyll is alive and well. They may remark upon the post-harvest tidiness of the fields and roadsides with their newly mown verges and trimmed hedges. They may even take these suburban attributes as a sign that landowners, farmers and local authorities alike are playing their proper part in conserving, managing and safeguarding for the future the rich diversity of our natural heritage.

If they do, they are very wrong. Those of us who live in the countryside know only too well that these are the latest signs of rural vandalism, perpetuated in the interest of mechanically efficient agricultural production without regard to their effect on the environment.

The destruction or neglect and mismanagement of our ancient hedgerows over the last 30 years has led to a shocking loss of the historic, archaeological, landscape and amenity value of the environment, quite apart from its seriously adverse effect on the more than 500 plant species and the wide range of animal life partly dependent on hedgerows for habitat or food.

A 1994 survey by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology first revealed that in the previous 10 years more than 110,000 miles of hedgerow had been destroyed, and that further loss continued at the rate of 15,000 miles per annum. This finding led to the belated realisation by the last Conservative government that the subsidised annual loss of hedgerows at that rate was an unacceptable price to pay for continuing agricultural expansion. The then government also realised, with remarkable perspicacity, you may think, that this was especially true, given that a high percentage of agricultural land was concurrently also being subsidised to be taken out of agricultural production under the set-aside scheme, to reduce both over-production and the cost of storing unwanted grain surpluses.

Accordingly, the government introduced, in the 1995 Environment Act, powers enabling ministers in England and Wales to introduce regulations to prevent the removal or



The ancient hedges of Devon nestle beneath the High Willhays, the highest point of Dartmoor

Tim Cuff/Aper

destruction of "important hedgerows". Parliament approved the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 in the last weeks of Conservative government, prior to the general election.

On taking office on May 1997, Michael Meacher, the new Labour Environment Minister, announced a review of the regulations by a group composed of representatives from the farming and conservation bodies, the utility companies, other statutory bodies, local authorities and government departments.

Their report, which has been published by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions in the last few weeks, sets out the existing legislative framework, refines the definition of "important hedgerows" and recommends further research to widen the scope of the regulations. However, a major lacuna is the complete lack of provision in the regulations for ensuring that "important

hedgerows" are neither neglected nor mismanaged.

There is now overwhelming cumulative evidence, from the British Trust for Ornithology, the Bio-Diversity Action Plan, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and others, of significant declines in once common farm bird populations. For example, the RSPB has identified more than 130 bird species that use farmland, of which 28 species are largely dependent on lowland arable fields or field margins. Of these dependent species 88 per cent have shown severe declines, of between 41 per cent and 87 per cent, over the last 25 years. Apart from these, there is increasing concern that hedgerow mammals and plant species may also be declining at alarming rates.

The evidence also shows clearly that these losses are no longer solely the result of hedge destruction, but increasingly are the result

of hedgerow neglect or mismanagement. When I was a young farm pupil in the Fifties, it was common practice to trim the hedges and banks and clean the ditches by hand in February and March, at the time of year when these operations did no damage to the dormant hedgerows. Increased mechanisation has replaced the clean cut of a hand-held hedging knife with the indiscriminate action of the chain flail. The hand-held sickle is similarly replaced by the heavy rotary mower which flattens hedgerow banks and shaves into the soil.

While mechanical damage in the winter months may be sustainable, unseasonable damage is not. Every rural hedge and every bank and roadside verge cut between the start of the growing season at the end of March and the end of the farming year in January diminishes or more seriously destroys, not only nesting-sites and ground cover,

but also the fruition of all the hedgerow species, to the detriment of the domestic birds and animals and the overwintering migratory birds that depend for their survival on the availability of hedgerow fruits and seeds.

Good husbandry and the best practices of hedgerow management have been known and understood by generations of British farmers and landowners and are still practised on the best farms and country estates. The new hedgerow regulations should make these practices obligatory for all "important hedgerows". Winter hedge-cutting and bank-mowing should be standard practice for all those responsible for "important hedgerows". However, local authorities could be given the right to grant exclusion orders in those circumstances where heavy or wet ground conditions, for example, render mechanical cutting impracticable.

The countryside lobby would gain considerable kudos and increased respect for its claim to look after the countryside if the National Farmers Union and the Country Landowners Association were to take the lead in negotiating with the Government to develop new hedgerow management regulations, perhaps with some built-in incentives to offset additional costs, instead of defending the status quo and thus contributing to the further diminution of the rural environment.

I am sure that such a constructive and transparent commitment to the future of the countryside would be enormously well received, not only by all the rural conservation bodies and by the Government; it would also give the Government a perfect opportunity to respond to the countryside lobby's reasonable request to "Listen to Us".

## RIGHT OF REPLY

LORD PARKINSON



The chairman of the Conservative Party replies to Monday's criticism by Anne McElvoy

SOME PEOPLE try to work out which electoral system would suit their party best and then argue that it is "fairer". On Monday, Anne McElvoy claimed that PR would harm the Conservative Party's electoral fortunes. Others have suggested to me that PR would speed up our recovery in Scotland and Wales.

This is not the way to debate fundamental constitutional change. The rules of the game should not be fixed in favour of one side or the other. We must put the national, not the party, interest first.

That is why we will be joining members of all parties and of none to oppose PR. I welcome the evidence from Labour's NEC to the Jenkins Commission that argued against PR. I am delighted that one of the largest unions, the AEEU, has announced funding for a "No" campaign. I am glad that at least 100 Labour MPs oppose change.

We share a common belief - that in a democracy, the people must be able to choose the government. This is not the case under PR, where parties spend weeks stitching together deals after the people have voted.

Independent research suggests that our electoral system is more proportional than any form of PR. The proportion of votes a party gets determines the proportion of time it spends in power.

Politicians choose who is in power under PR. This cannot be right. Yes, any party that commands widespread support is a coalition. But it decides its policies before the election, presenting it manifestos to the electorate for their approval.

The people, not the politicians, have the final say under our system. That is why we are preparing to campaign hard against PR in the forthcoming referendum. Nothing less than the people's votes are at stake.

## Home on the rolling deep

IF C S FORESTER was the Navy's Mozart, Patrick O'Brian is its Beethoven. Better or worse are irrelevant comparisons. Nor is there any need to deprive oneself of the pleasure of the latter out of a misplaced loyalty to the former. Certainly, the dozens of British and American admirals, ambassadors, novelists, musicians and secret service agents who recently toasted O'Brian at a 370-strong celebration dinner in the Painted Hall at Greenwich saw no reason to qualify their eulogies.

O'Brian's hugely celebrated epic of the British Navy between 1800 and 1815 has brought together perhaps the most unlikely combination of admirers in the annals of reading. At the dinner, William Waldegrave compared him to Homer, Mark Knopfler rubbed shoulders with the heads of MI5 and MI6, Danielle Steele and Rose Tremain tapped feet to the Beating of the Retreat. Go into any bookshop come publication day and the queue panting for their copy of *The Hundred Days* will include young and old, male and female, dreamers and sportsmen, philosophers and explorers.

Some have grown up with O'Brian - the first in the series was written in 1970. Others, myself included, came upon him more recently and read them in a tidal wave of energy. Most have returned to read them all through again. What we're talking about with a new O'Brian is a kind of Father Christmas letter about a much-loved and ever-growing family of characters in an unerring authentic and gloriously patriotic setting. High endeavours alternate with



### WEDNESDAY BOOK

THE HUNDRED DAYS  
BY PATRICK O'BRIAN, HARPERCOLLINS, £16.99

everyday grinds, subtle dilemmas with love affairs, tragedy with comedy. Why wouldn't we like them?

But if you are an O'Brian virgin, beware of trying to jump aboard in mid-voyage. *The Hundred Days* is better described as the 19th chapter than the 19th book in his 6,300-page long series. Although its publishers insist that it can stand alone, to start here would be like listening to a cello with

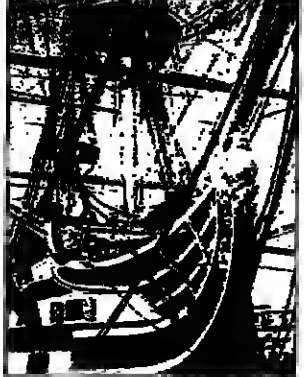
a cluster stuffed in its sound-box. You will miss the echoes and resonances, the variations on a host of themes, that stretch back through the last 18 books. Worst of all, you will fail to understand why, on arrival at page four of *The Hundred Days*, there will be all over the O'Brian world great wailing and gnashing of teeth, and a general donning of sackcloth and ashes, as his hundreds of thousands of fans absorb the

most unjust literary shock since Part VI of *Jude the Obscure*. Go and buy the first in the series (*Master and Commander*) and leave me to commiserate with the converted.

How can I soften the blow (the nature of which I have no intention of revealing, although crasser critics will do so)? I could tell you that it is, for all that initial shock, worth reading on. That we are back in the vessel *Surprise* and in the Mediterranean. That this is a much meatier book than *The Yellow Admiral*. That Aubrey fights some splendid actions and teeters between glory and ruin. That Maturin almost meets his match among the wily Arabs, but also adds to his formidable collection of natural phenomena. That there is promise in the book's sunset of a new dawn.

And finally, having lured you thus far, I can, sadly, promise that its recurring leitmotif is one of the subtlest sketches of deep, deep grief in literature.

Now for comfits. How about a CD of *Musical Evenings with the Captain* (Morr Music, 13 Bank Square, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 1AN), a compilation of the sort of pieces that Aubrey and Maturin played together in their cabin, complete with an essay by the Master on the music in ordinary people's lives at the time? Or you could



The bows of HMS Victory

get stuck into recipes for Drowned Baby, Archipel Flotant and Souped Hog's Face from Anne Chotznoff Grossman and Liza Grossman's *The Lobscow and Spotted Dog*. "Which is a Gastronomic Companion to the Aubrey/Maturin novels" (Norton). Never mind "first catch your hare", we're talking syllabubs in which you milk the cow into the bowl and fritters made from the swordfish which happened to pierce the *True-love's* hull.

Or you could buy the recently reprinted *The Golden Ocean* and *The Unknown Shore* (both HarperCollins), the first two books O'Brian wrote. Both about Anson's circumnavigation of the world in 1740, they star a couple of midshipmen who, by all accounts, bear a striking resemblance to Aubrey and Maturin in youth. Or you could go down to "Woolcombe, or Woolhampton as some say", and leave a bunch of lilies at Maiden Oscott bridge.

CHRISTINA HARDYMENT

### WEDNESDAY POEM

FLEET  
BY TAMAR VOSELOFF

It flows beneath my feet, its subterranean banks unseen. I glide blissfully through my day, all liquid, like a fish. I can't understand what gives this extra lift to my step, as if I'm floating, and the cars drifting through Clerkenwell Green are barges carrying sailors home from sea.

But an undercurrent sinks me at Islington: I sense the bones of the old prison, the plague-dead dumped straight from their beds, butchers' scraps staining the water blood red. The old dark brick shifts, the city groans in its foundations and spits me out like a sour grape into the street.

This poem comes from Tamar Voseloff's first full-length collection *Sweetheart*, published by Slow Dancer Press (£6.99)

Our eyes have been described as the "windows to the soul". While this sounds poetic, the truth is they are certainly worth looking after.

Visionace from Vitabiotics is a unique research based combination to help maintain healthy eyes and vision. It has been tested over several years by a University Department of Vision Science, and Visionace is recommended by leading UK optometrists and eye care specialists.

The formula includes important antioxidant nutrients like beta-carotene, vitamin C and bioflavonoids. These help maintain the health of the retina and lens, which can be damaged over the years by sunlight and smoke. Visionace also provides minerals required by natural visual pigments.

The patent pending supplement is ideal if you wear contact lenses, or work long hours at a computer screen.

You won't see anything to match Visionace. And the really good news is that it's available at Holland & Barrett too!



Visionace

Healthy Eyes & Good Vision  
Starts Here

## Seeing is believing...

For further information contact Vitabiotics on 0800 980 9060  
Visionace is a trade mark of Vitabiotics Ltd. European Patent Pending.

**Visionace** RECOMMENDED BY LEADING UK OPTOMETRISTS  
Available now from Holland & Barrett





# Liam de Paor

THE HISTORIAN and political thinker Liam de Paor was a radical, in the sense that he grew and changed direction. It was therefore not wholly surprising that coverage of his death in the *Irish Times* gave three distinct accounts of him. The first stressed de Paor's originality as a political thinker, his preference for Irish independence over Irish unity. The second dwelt on his commitment to Gaelic culture. The third, by a professional archaeologist, mixed tributes to de Paor's scholarship with heart-felt acknowledgements of his humility and his humour.

De Paor's immediate family background lay in east Munster. His father, who worked for the railways in pre-independent Ireland, found himself beached in Dublin at the time of the Easter Rising. He stayed on, married and started a family. Liam was born 10 years later, in 1928, the year in which Sean O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* outraged citizens of the new state with its irreverent, tragicomic view of nationalist politics. This was a fitting moment for Liam de Paor to slip on to the stage of left-wing affairs.

De Paor's emergence as a political thinker was slow. He trained initially as an architect in University College, Dublin. His contemporaries included Liam Miller (another architect who changed course to pioneer literary publishing in post-war Ireland), Anthony Cronin (a barrister, but best known as a writer), and Charles J. Haughey (an accountant turned politician). Changing direction signified much for this generation.

Partly at least through the influence of his first wife, Maire McDermott (an art historian who came from Ulster), de Paor abandoned architecture for archaeology. His knowledge of buildings as things to be designed and built in the present greatly assisted his work on the surviving structures of antiquity. Their joint work, *Early Christian Ireland* (1953), published in the *Thames and Hudson* series and often reprint-

ed, contributed to the growth of public awareness in early Irish history and a culture which in turn profoundly affected issues of ethnicity and identity in the troubled decades to come. These issues in turn preoccupied him, not so much for their alleged weighty substance as for the dark shadows they cast as ideological concepts today.

De Paor was no stay-at-home academic. He worked in 1945 as a draughtsman in the stained-glass studios of the Irish artist Harry Clarke, and in the Sixties served Unesco in Nepal as an advisor. During his years on the staff of University College, Dublin (1965-86), he lectured in American History as well as his own more obvious specialisms. He was an eloquent and charming speaker of Gaelic, who participated regularly in those learned Bacchanalian summer schools dedicated to the memory of the Gaelic poet Brian Merriman (fl. 1780). One of de Paor's last publications was an English-language translation (published earlier this year in the journal *Times Change*) of a lecture he had first given at Merriman in Gaelic.

De Paor was well known as an excavating archaeologist. Indeed, he was "on a dig" in the Midlands when the news broke of serious trouble in Ulster in 1969. His immediate response was to volunteer in giving assistance in whatever way he could to the expected flow of refugees from the Catholic quarters of Belfast. In the course of heady consultations, he was asked if his professional travels abroad might provide cover for an importation of arms. His firm answer was in the negative, not only - as he repeated the matter to me last year - because he did not believe arms would help the situation at that time, but because he profoundly distrusted the persons in Fionna Fail who made the suggestion. On television only a few years ago, he made this episode public.

His more lasting response to the recurrence of violence in 1989 was *Divided Ulster* (1970), commis-

sioned by Penguin Books as one of the first of their "specials" on the Irish Troubles. Although it is essentially a historical study, it indicates clearly its author's acute political sense. De Paor had joined the Labour Party before the fashionable influx of seeming left-wingers - Conor Cruise O'Brien, David Thornley and Justin Keating - who swept it into a coalition government with Fine Gael in 1973. De Paor attended meetings of the Sean Connolly Branch in Dublin's south-east constituency, an eccentric coterie not least in its choice of venue

"Roots", published in the *Irish Times*, provided an opportunity not only for him to broadcast his opinions but also to test and modify them.

After he retired from the UCD in 1986, de Paor spent much time in America. He separated from his first wife and after her death in 1994 married Deirdre Glenn. Few of the many friends who called to their flat in Dartry realised that he had passed the three-score-and-ten; he continued to work incessantly, publishing new material on St Patrick and on contemporary politics.

A book of 1990 summarises in its very name the loss felt by many in Ireland and elsewhere when on the day of the Oragh bombing, de Paor was cremated in Dublin - *Unfinished Business*. Ten years earlier, the title would have been glossed as a Republican manifesto. However, de Paor's evolving political thought radically challenged the dogmas of Irish Republicanism, especially the easy assumption that differences were mergeable in some comprehensive notion of Irishness. Though he remained faithful to the Labour Party, his influence was discernible in Democratic Left (in whose journal he published his last article) and even in Fine Gael, for whom he never held out much hope.

Liam de Paor will not be remembered as part of some professional cadre of Irish political scientists. As a passionate dissident his name will be found among names more lovingly honoured than loudly celebrated. In the company of Fred Ryan, Louise Bennett, Father Francis Shaw and Jimmy Kenny, Liam de Paor will feel at home, having earned his eternal rest. There will be lively talk, and not a dry tongue in the heavenly mansions.

W. J. MC CORMACK

Liam de Paor, archaeologist, historian and political scientist; born Dublin 13 April 1928; married 1955 Maire McDermott (died 1994); four sons, one daughter; 1997 Deirdre Glenn (one son); died Dublin 13 August 1998.

De Paor was political thinker, historian, Gaelic speaker, professional archaeologist, but no stay-at-home-Rule academic

- a café of the vegetarian tendency frequented by the novelist Christine, Lady Longford, the Baha'i actor O.Z. Whitehead and sundry Trotskyites (and the inevitable Special Branch following of the latter). At all times, de Paor remained a rock of sense when Labour members met these luminaries after party meetings, courteous, insistent on procedure and principle, quietly mischievous.

Even when the Fine Gael changed leader and Garret FitzGerald initiated a Social Democratic renewal of his party, de Paor continued to oppose coalition as an option for Labour. His interests were so diverse that few thought of him as a political thinker, though he was sought after as a commentator. A column,

## Air Marshal Sir Christopher Hartley

WHEN THE services competed for defence funds at the height of the Cold War in the autumn of 1964, and admirals and air marshals practically came to blows over rival claims for more aircraft carriers or more V-bombers, Christopher Hartley was at the centre of the arguments; for as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (ACAS) from 1961, with responsibility for operational requirements, and then as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) from 1963, he had an overview of future RAF needs for its strategic and tactical capabilities.

His terms of office in these posts covered some major decisions over the V-bomber force (particularly its low-level role after the cancellation of Skybolt missiles) and TSR-2, leading him to the latter case to criticise the competence of the Ministry of Aviation to manage a major project.

After a Labour administration came to power in the autumn of 1964 and signalled their intentions to cancel the supersonic Harrier, the HS681 STOL transport and TSR-2, Hartley led a team to the United States to look at alternative types and report to the Minister of Defence (Denis Healey); and on their recommendations were based the subsequent purchases of Phantoms and C-130s.

With his service experience of planning future equipment, Hartley

was a natural choice for the secondment post of Controller of Aircraft at the Ministry of Aviation (which became the Ministry of Technology) from 1966, serving there until his retirement in 1970 and having an overview of both civil and military projects. He was particularly involved in the complex international Concorde programme.

As a consequence of these high-level contacts, appointments at board-room level followed his retirement in 1970 from his service career - with FPT Industries, Saunders-Roe Developments, Westland Engineers, Westland Technologies and Westland Aircraft, and the British Hovercraft Corporation, of which he was chairman from 1974 to 1978.

Born in 1913, Hartley had his first flying experience when he joined Oxford University Air Squadron in 1934, and in those pre-war years he served on three university expeditions, to Sarawak, Spitsbergen and Greenland. He was tall and strong and at his happiest in outdoor pursuits like fishing, shooting, mountaineering and sailing.

When war came he was a science master at Eton, where he had been educated as a boy, representing the college at rugby and rowing, and from where he went up to Balliol as an Exhibitioner. After being called up for service he initially flew with No 5, 6 and 7 Bombing and Gunnery

Schools, then became an instructor at No 2 SFTS. He then went into night fighter operations; his first squadron was No 604 (County of Middlesex), before becoming a flight commander with No 256.

During 1943, at the Flying Instructor Unit at Ford, he served as fighter controller and then commanding officer. For his part in the operational trials of the first Ju-88 night fighter to fall into RAF hands he was awarded the AFC, then in 1945 won the DFC.

His post-war career was determined when he gained a permanent commission in September 1945, and two attachments to the Staff College at Bracknell - on No 17 (W) Staff Course and in 1949-50 as a member of the Directing Staff - were interspersed with his first tour at the Air Ministry, on intelligence duties.

Hartley achieved his first senior post when appointed to command RAF Wahn in 2nd TAF in 1951. He then became Deputy Director of Operations (Guided Weapons) at No 61 Group, attended the Nato Special Weapons Senior Officers Course and was subsequently appointed Sector Commander, Eastern Sector. He served as Senior Air Staff Officer at No 12 Group, and from there went to his first senior Air Ministry appointment - as ACAS (Operational Requirements) - in June 1961.

HUMPHREY WYNN



Christopher Harold Hartley, air force officer; born Oxford 31 January 1913; AFC 1944; DFC 1945; OBE 1949; Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operational Requirements) 1961; CB 1961, KCB 1963; Deputy Chief of Air Staff 1963-66; Controller of Aircraft, Ministry of Aviation and Ministry of Technology 1966-70; director, Westland Aircraft Ltd 1971-83; married 1937 Anne Sitwell (marriage dissolved 1943); 1944 Margaret Watson (died 1989; two sons); died Oxford 29 July 1998.

## Lewis Franklin Powell Jr

LEWIS FRANKLIN Powell was a largely unsung member of the US Supreme Court, a southerner of the old school and a learned jurist, rarely in the contentious limelight of great legal argument, but someone who could play a pivotal role in the formulation of some of the court's most important rulings of the time.

He served as an associate justice for 15 years until his retirement in 1987 at the age of 80 and was instrumental in at least two landmark decisions. One was the 1978 Bakke case, in which he wrote the majority opinion in the 5-4 ruling which first upheld the concept of affirmative action, the doctrine which accepts minorities require special help to overcome discrimination. Earlier he had spoken for the court in its decision, also by a 5-4 vote, which declared that a President had "absolute immunity" from being sued for monetary damages for any misconduct which was part of his official duties.

The case in question - almost inevitably - involved Richard Nixon, the very President who in 1971 had asked a reluctant Powell to take a seat on the court, three years before he would be forced in disgrace from the White House. If pressed, Powell would describe himself as a conservative, but he always took pains to steer clear of ideology. At the end of his service, his fellow justices paid tribute to him for his "extraordinary

capacity" to take part in legal debates "without ever allowing advocacy to degenerate into contentiousness."

The style reflected the upbringing of a scion of the old Commonwealth of Virginia, a graduate of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, and then of Harvard Law School. Before joining the high court, Powell spent 40 years at the venerable Richmond law firm of Hunton, Williams, Gay, Powell and Gibson, where he became a partner in 1938.

During that time he served as both president of the American Bar Foundation and of the US lawyers organisation, the American Bar Association, as well as a member of a Presidential panel examining the functioning of the Defence Department.

The last appointment was no accident. Powell had joined the army in 1942 and spent four years in the military. They included 32 months as an intelligence officer in Europe, mostly a stint in top secret work of Bletchley breaking Nazi war codes, as a member of a unit whose very existence was not revealed until 1974.

If there was a blemish on his career, it was his decisive vote in a 1985 case that ruled consenting adults did not enjoy a constitutional right to private homosexual acts. Times were perhaps moving faster than an old judge would like. His opinion, he later conceded, was "probably a mistake."

Otherwise Powell was universally admired. He was a tall and slender



man of great courtliness yet quiet perseverance, a scholar who shunned self-advertisement. "The gentleness and gallantry of the old South are gathered in the person of Lewis Powell," the *New York Times* wrote.

RUPERT CORNWELL

Lewis Franklin Powell, lawyer; born Suffolk, Virginia 19 September 1907; Associate Justice, US Supreme Court 1972-87; married 1936 Josephine Rucker (one son, three daughters); died Richmond, Virginia 25 August 1998.



Arturo Toscanini in 1927 with his wife, Carla, left, and daughter Wanda sailing to the United States  
Lebrecht Collection

## Wanda Toscanini Horowitz

BEING THE daughter of Arturo Toscanini and the wife of Vladimir Horowitz would, one imagines, condemn a woman to a life in the public eye. Yet Wanda Horowitz's no-nonsense approach to the world managed both to shield her husband from the intrusions of an importunate press and to turn the glare of attention away from her own role in one of the most newsworthy of musical families.

She was born in Milan in 1907, the youngest of Toscanini's four children. Her own musical ambitions - as pianist and singer - were drowned by her father's intolerant perfectionism; she couldn't practise when he was within earshot, since "a mistake was like a stab in his stomach", and so she helped her mother look after the capricious, self-centred conductor.

This early training in the technique of coping with superstars came into its own when in 1933 she

married Vladimir Horowitz, then 29 and well on the way to acquiring the label of "world's greatest pianist". She was instantly attracted to him, both physically and intellectually. "In the first place he was good-looking," she later recalled. "And his playing! I heard him play in a house after a concert... I remember I went home and said, 'I never heard anyone play a mazurka of Chopin like this.'" They were married in the same year, and her 55-year-long career as minder of a deeply insecure musician had begun.

The relationship was not easy. Horowitz's homosexuality cannot have helped. Their only child, Sonia, was born early in the marriage and led a troubled life, not least because of the relative indifference of her father; she died at the age of 40 in 1974, as the result of injuries sustained in a motor-cycle accident.

It was hardly surprising that

Horowitz and his wife separated in 1949 - but briefly, as it turned out. His lack of conviction in his own abilities - so unsettling that for 12 years this most gifted of pianists was certain he would never play again - needed the bulwark of her self-confidence. When Horowitz died, on 5 November 1989, Leonard Bernstein paid tribute to her "long years of devotion to this amazing man". Horowitz was, he said, "not only a super-pianist but a super-musician with all the mental fallibilities such geniuses have. You cared for him and guarded him through a series of neurotic crises the world may never know nor understand; and you returned him to us time and again, refreshed, renewed and ever greater."

Indeed, Wanda Horowitz was the backbone her sensitive husband could not generate on his own. When he took to the piano again after his long silence, she packed his bags, examined the hotel rooms,

supervised the food, screened telephone calls, argued with managers, stood firm against record companies, often using considerable musical judgement of her own.

That tough exterior was not simply a protective play; her scowl was legendary, and she inherited her father's temper. "My father made me neurotic and my husband made me crazy," she snapped at one reporter who asked about the two men in her life. But she summed up her own achievement with quiet satisfaction: "To be the daughter of Toscanini, I didn't have any merit because I could have been born to anybody. But to be the wife of Horowitz, in that I take a little bit of pride."

MARTIN ANDERSON

Wanda Giorgia Toscanini; born Milan, Italy 5 December 1907; married 1933 Vladimir Horowitz (died 1989; one daughter deceased); died New York 21 August 1998.



## Oleg Prokofiev

THE SON of the composer Sergei Prokofiev, Oleg Prokofiev was in his own right an artist, painter, sculptor and poet, a cultivated man with a lively interest in every form of artistic expression. He was a passionate and knowledgeable promoter of his father's music, a devoted father and a faithful friend.

He had a touching and infectious enthusiasm for the new. Yet his life had not been straightforward, and he went through a series of personal tragedies and losses. The second son of Sergei Prokofiev and the singer Lina Codina, he was born in Paris in 1928. He and his elder brother, Sviatoslav, were often separated from their parents who spent long periods touring the Western world and, increasingly often, Russia.

When in 1936 Prokofiev père decided to settle back in Moscow, he took his family to a country already in the grip of Stalin's purges. The following years were sombre; Sergei Prokofiev soon left his wife who, unlike him, went through the war years in Moscow, alone with her two sons. In 1948, Lina was arrested by the KGB and sent to Siberia for eight years, so that her sons were left to fend for themselves. In spite of these difficulties, Oleg was highly stimulated by the artistic environment he lived in, and he studied art at the Moscow School of Art from 1944 to 1947.

After a first unsuccessful marriage, he met and married a young British art historian, Camilla Gray, who would later on write a ground-breaking study of Russian avant-garde art, *The Great Experiment: Russian Art, 1863-1922* (1962). Tragically, Camilla died after a short illness while pregnant with their second child. Allowed by the Soviet authorities to bring his daughter, Anastasia to England, Oleg Prokofiev settled first in Leeds, where he was awarded a fellowship in the Fine Arts Department of Leeds University (from 1972 to 1974) and where he met his third wife, Frances Child. Oleg and Frances had five children, one of whom, their second son Quentin, died of leukaemia while still a young boy.

In spite of these terrible upheavals and even though the legacy left him by his father forced him to relive and recall the past over and over again, Oleg Prokofiev looked and moved forward. Over the past 20 years, he successfully struck a balance in his own life, making his name as an artist, while dedicating a considerable part of his time to his father's music. The old signature on his paintings, "O. Prokofiev", gave way to "Oleg". He exhibited his wood sculptures and paintings in a number of countries and, most significantly for him, in Moscow last winter. His style was constantly evolving, as a response to the new shapes and lights he discovered in his many journeys to America, Africa and, most recently, India. Some of his poems have also been published.

At the same time, he became increasingly involved in the promotion of his father's work and life, and it is in this capacity that I best knew him. As the curator of the Prokofiev Archive at Goldsmiths' College in London, I was guided, supported and inspired by his profound knowledge of Sergei Prokofiev's music, and also that of musical life in Soviet Russia.



*Town Sunset* by Oleg Prokofiev, painted wood, 1992. Prokofiev studied art first in Moscow, then in Leeds



*He struck a balance in his life, making his name as an artist, while dedicating a considerable part of his time to his father's music. He packed a lecture-room for more than two hours alternating recollections and critical argument with impersonations of his father and Shostakovich*

He often appeared on television and radio, the last time being on Radio 3 for the performance of his father's *Contra for the Twentieth Anniversary of the October Revolution* at this year's Proms. It was however behind the scenes that he was most active. He kept a huge correspondence with artists, musicologists, performers and film directors working on Prokofiev and Soviet music. Deeply modest, he would always make time for anyone genuinely interested in his father's music. I shall never forget the fascinating presentation he gave at Goldsmiths' in a lecture room packed with first-year undergraduates. For more

than two hours, recollections and critical arguments alternated with humorous impersonations of Prokofiev and Shostakovich.

On another occasion I invited him to the Prokofiev Archive to sign copies of a book he had translated and edited in 1991, *Sergei Prokofiev, Soviet Diary 1927*. For three hours, he spoke to undergraduates, postgraduates and lecturers alike, inspiring and delighting them with his testimony, enthusiasm and accessibility.

Just as his father had spent years of his émigration life promoting the music of many contemporary Soviet composers, Oleg Prokofiev helped and patronised

a great number of Russian artists in this country. "He was a man I saw little of," said one young Russian artist to me, "but every time we met, he gave a new dimension to my life over here, to the life of so many creative people."

NOELLE MANN

Oleg Sergeyevich Prokofiev, painter and sculptor: born Paris 14 December 1928; married first Sofia Korovina (one son; marriage dissolved), 1969; Camilla Gray (died 1971; one daughter), 1974; Frances Child (two sons, two daughters, and one son deceased); died Alderney, Channel Islands 20 August 1998.

## PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

JULIAN BAGGINI

## Did Columbus 'discover' America?

"IS THERE such a thing as 'the truth'?" It would be foolish to claim that philosophy had definitively answered this most difficult and intractable of questions. But just a little philosophical reflection can help us to avoid the terrible muddles even intelligent, educated people get into when they talk about truth. Consider how the Professor of English Terry Hawkes replied to that same question on the radio last week:

(The) idea that there's a single truth out there to which we have some immediate access is an illusion, it's a delusion. We know that somebody called Columbus set foot in North America in 1492, but is it true to say that he discovered North America? I think that if you were a native American who was already living there you'd probably have quite a different story to tell.

Hawkes was defending a view which was once seen as shocking, but is now de rigueur: that there is no one single truth and that what is true for one person may not be true for another. In other words, truth is relative.

You don't need to commit yourself to any of the major philosophical theories of truth (correspondence, coherence, pragmatic and so on) to see the difficulties in Hawkes's argument, and by proxy in the received wisdom about truth and relativism. Given his conclusion, it is surprising that Hawkes actually states that something is true: Columbus set foot in North America in 1492. Obviously, to say it is true is not to say it is beyond dispute. But, even if it turned out Columbus arrived in 1493, it cannot be true that Columbus both did and did not set foot in North America in 1492, unless "set foot in" contains some ambiguity. Either way, there is some truth in the matter.

Given that Hawkes seems to acknowledge that there are some objective truths, what does all he says about "discovering" show? All it demonstrates is that some words in some contexts are vague, ambiguous or misleading. It is accurate to say that the statement "Columbus Discovered America" seemed true to the Europeans and false to the indigenous peoples of the Americas. But you cannot jump from the obvious fact that people believe contradictory things to the conclusion that contradictory things are or can be true. For instance,



Christopher Columbus: the truths

there was a time when many people believed that the world was flat, while others believed that it was a sphere. Obviously it cannot be the case that the world is both flat and a sphere at the same time. The fact that people held different beliefs about the shape of the world tells us nothing at all about what is true of the world.

What is more, if you actually asked Europeans and indigenous Americans what they meant by their assertion or denial of Columbus's "discovery", they would provide totally compatible answers - that there were people who lived in the Americas before Columbus got there, but that Columbus was the first European to land there. No competing "truths" here.

Of course, there are more serious and profound arguments for the idea of the relativity of truth. But, unfortunately, it is this sloppy version of relativism which has captured the popular imagination, and it just won't wash. As a further example, last year a survey showed that people who believed that "what is true for me may not be true for you" were more likely to admit telling lies. But even to recognise that one has told a lie one has to acknowledge the difference between truth and falsehood. It seems no one can affirm their belief in the relativity of truth without implicitly undermining it in their next breath.

Dr Julian Baggini is editor of the quarterly *The Philosophers' Magazine*, an issue of which is due out next week ([www.philosophers.co.uk](http://www.philosophers.co.uk))

## Fully insulated against the Price of Fame

THE INDEPENDENT  
ARCHIVE  
26 AUGUST 1987

*Worrying does not come naturally to Mick Jagger. Dave Hill interviews the 44-year-old Rolling Stone about his new album, 'Primitive Cool'*

YOU CAN prod Mick Jagger in all the right places, but there does not seem to be a neurotic impulse in his soul. What will happen, for instance, if nobody goes out and buys his new LP? "Oh well, it's nice if they buy a lot. If they buy a medium amount it's quite nice, if they don't buy it at all, it's very disappointing." He unleashes a particularly disarming beam. "I dunno, it's a bit of a silly question, really."

Thanks a bunch, your Imperial Highness.

"But it is! It hasn't happened, so come back to me when it does and I'll tell you. I'll cross that bridge when I come to it. There's no point asking me about it now."

Worrying does not come naturally to Jagger. First, he does not appear worried that his floppy green jumper and baggy blue trousers make him look like an out-of-work fringe theatre extra. Second, he does not seem bothered that he has turned up three-quarters of an hour late. And third, it concerns him not one bit that his entire life is rooted in his command of vast amounts of attention - a situation which can damage the equilibrium of even quite sensible human beings by its presence, or, conversely, sudden absence.

Yet while all the other instant icons of the Sixties are either six feet under or carrying great quantities of scar tissue around, Mick Jagger looks thin and fit and rolls on a chair in his Chelsea office, replete with an enviable and perfectly matter-of-fact self-esteem. Forty-four years old, and apparently fully insulated against paying the Price of Fame. If people still

exist who long to touch the hem of his garments, so what? It is just one of those things.

"I don't have that feeling for anyone, right? Do I find it absurd?" A pause for thought. "I find it a little bit... strange."

Ah, Henry Kissinger speaks. "Aw, look, what can I tell you? I don't wanna put people down who find all that stuff fascinating. I do find it a bit strange, but when I'm actually up there doing it, or when I'm talking to people on the street who come up to me with that feeling, they get me enthusiastic about the idea of it again. I mean," he shrugs, reasonably, "it's a nice kind of thing."

On Saturday night I was in a small town in the Cotswolds, all kind of picturesque and nice, seeing some friends. And there was about a dozen very young teenage children. They were standing there in the main street with nothing to do, you know, and when I came out they all started singing 'Honky-Tonk Woman'. It was really lovely, you know.

Jagger, it seems, is also perfectly reconciled to the two,

sometimes conflicting, halves of his professional life: being a musician and being a celebrity. The latter has its pros and cons. ("You can get into hotels when they're all booked up. There's very few advantages... it's not all it's cracked up to be"), but the former is what he enjoys best. "I like to create things. I enjoy making a record once a year."

Simple as that, mate. Mick Jagger's new long play, out next month, is a solo effort conceived and partly executed with Dave Stewart of Eurythmics. They met by accident. Jagger "thought he was an amusing guy", and they spent some days together "writing a couple of songs, then going down the pub. It was fun." In the event, Stewart co-wrote just three tracks out of the 10 on *Primitive Cool*, though Jagger suggests that his spirit informs the bulk.

Mick Jagger has the outlook and the middle-class grounding which can take veneration in its stride. He doesn't mean a lot, because he knows he has not got much to moan about, and maybe because not much bugs him enough anyway. His album is the work of a man who puts recreation at the centre of his life but has no real need to suffer for it. And if it does not much suit his nature that the Rolling Stones are a part of Britain's stifling need for nostalgia, well, so it goes.

"Nostalgia? I don't particularly enjoy it... so let's throw it out the window!"

Just as simple as that.

From the Arts page of *The Independent*, Wednesday 26 August 1987

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

HANSOM: On 23 August 1988, to Marie-Pierre and Tom, a daughter, Olivia Marie Elton.

#### DEATHS

GRIEVE: On 22 August 1988, at Marseilles, France, after a short illness bravely borne, William Percival (Percy) Grievie QC, aged 83, husband of the late Evelyn Raymond Louise Grievie. Much loved and missed by his son Dominic, grandsons James and Hugo and daughter-in-law Caroline. Funeral at St Clement's Church, Fulham Palace Road, SW6, on Friday 4 September at 11am, followed by private committal at Putney Vale Crematorium. Flowers to J.L. Kenyon, 49 Marlboro Road, Kensington, W8 5LA, telephone 0171-937 0757. A Memorial Service will be held later. Any enquiries to 0181-761 0751.

PROKOFIEV: Oleg, suddenly but peacefully, on 20 August, while on holiday with his family. Husband to Frances, and father of Seriozha, Anastasia, Gabriel, Coralia, Beatrice and Rupert (and of Quentin, who died in 1981). Funeral details, 0181-692 2014. Family flowers only please, but donations would be welcome, to A.T. Society, c/o Francis Chappell, 4 Lee High Road, London SE13 5LQ, telephone 0181-852 2936.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at 25.50 a line (VAT extra).

#### MARRIAGES

Mr C. M. Arthur and Miss P. S. J. Moyes. The marriage took place on Saturday 18 July, at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, between Charles Arthur and Jojo Moyes. Canon John Oates conducted the service. A reception was held afterwards at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly.

#### BIRTHDAYS

The Duke of Gloucester, 54; Mr H.W. "Bunny" Austin, former tennis player, 92; Sir Kenneth Barnes, former senior civil servant, 76; The Right Rev Alan Chesters, Bishop of Blackburn, 61; Mrs Jean Clancy, former Headmistress, North London Collegiate School, 59; Mr Howard Clark, golfer, 44; Mr Michael Cockerell, television reporter, 58; Mr Richard Dales, former High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, 56; Mr Peter Fowler, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, 62; Sir Anthony Garrett, former deputy Master and Comptroller, the Royal Mint, 70; Mr Stuart Graham, former chairman, International Commodities Clearing House, 77; Mr Tim Mabry, radio news reporter and presenter, 51; Sir Ian McGregor, former Visiting Professor, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, 76; Mr David Martin, MBE, 44; Mr

Malcolm Pyrah, show jumper, 57; Miss Allison Steadman, actress, 52; Mr Dennis Turner MP, 56; Professor John Ware, former Principal, Westfield College, 76; Mr Dave Watkin MP, 47; The Right Rev Maurice Wood, former Bishop of Norwich, 82; Mr Steve Wright, disc jockey, 44.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford, statesman, 1676; Joseph-Michel Montgolfier, balloonist, 1740; Joseph Christoph Kessler (Kötler), pianist and composer, 1800; Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria, 1819; Lee De Forest, radio and television inventor, 1873; John Buchan, first Baron Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada and novelist, 1875; Guillaume Apollinaire (Wilhelm Apollinaris de Kostrowitzky), poet, 1880; Jules Romains (Louis-Henri Jean Farigoule), novelist, playwright and poet, 1885; Christopher William Bradshaw Isherwood, novelist, 1904.

Deaths: Ottokar II, King of Bohemia, killed in battle, 1278; Frans Hals, painter, 1666; Louis-Philippe, "Citizen King" of France, 1850; Hermann Goldschmidt, painter and astronomer, 1866; Baron Hendrik Leys, painter, 1869; Karl Wilhelm, choral director

and composer of *Die Wacht am Rhein*, 1873; George Manville Fenn, novelist, 1909; William James, psychologist and philosopher, 1910; Lon (Alonso) Chaney actor, 1930; Frank (James Thomas) Harris, editor and writer, 1931; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1958; Naomi Ellington Jacob, novelist, 1964; Sir Francis Charles Chichester, aviator and yachtsman, 1972; Charles Augustus Lindbergh, pioneer aviator, 1974; Charles Boyer, actor, 1978.

On this day: Julius Caesar landed in Britain, 55 BC; King Edward III, aided by the Black Prince, his son, defeated the French at the Battle of Crécy, 1346; Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* was first performed, Birmingham Festival, 1846; Krakatoa, the island volcano, began erupting, killing over 36,000 people, 1883; under the 18th Amendment women in the United States were granted the right to vote, 1920; the Anglo-Egyptian alliance was signed, 1936; the XXth Olympic Games opened in Munich, 1972; Cardinal Albino Luciani was elected Pope John Paul I, 1978.

Today is the Feast Day of St Bregwine, archbishop of Canterbury, St Elizabeth Bichier des Ages, St Herta, St John Wall, St Mary Desmaisières, St Pandonia and St Teresa Jornet Ibars.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal opens a showroom at the Royal Aberdeen Workshops for the Blind and Disabled at Tullos, Aberdeen; as Patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, visits Girdle Ness Light-house, Aberdeen; and opens the Aberdeen North Centre for Haematology, Oncology and Radiotherapy at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Venice (iv): Tintoretto", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Ming Wilson, "Chinese Enamelled Ceramics", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Stuart Currie, "Georges Braque and the Mysterious Interior Space", 1pm.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Mr Richard Vernon Michael Hall, to be a district judge, on the North Eastern Circuit.

SURELY ONE of the ugliest words ever to siltter its way into our dictionaries, *humongous*, or *humungous*, began life in the US around 1970 and has proved impossible to eradicate. A silly and affected synonym for huge or enormous, it serves no purpose not covered by those words and is thus redundant. Yet the

#### WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
*humongous*, adj.

compilers of the Chambers, Collins and Oxford dictionaries have all included it rather than leaving it in a pile of dubious neologisms and hoping it will go away.

Bodacious was another word that came into vogue at about the same time as *humongous*, but this has a respectable pedigree dating back to the mid-19th century. A variant of an older dialect term, *boldacious*, it implies boldness and audacity rather than, as modern usage suggests, merely an ample chest.







# Do the Welsh deserve Snowdon?

If the people of Wales cannot decide on a national assembly, what hope is there for Snowdonia? By Clive Gammon

At the National Eisteddfod of Wales, earlier this month, to bardic acclamation and a cheque for £1m from Sir Anthony Hopkins, the National Trust announced its Snowdonia Appeal. It had become necessary after a local farmer, whose family had owned the land that encompassed Snowdon's summit for 300 years, declared his reluctant decision to sell. Fears were immediately raised that the mountain might be bought by a developer who would exploit it for tourism – rumour pointed at a mysterious Krishnan. But, patriotically, the had already received a bigger offer: Richard Williams announced that if the National Trust could raise £3m, then he would reserve it for the Trust. For three months only.

But with only 80 days left, the fund is still £1,530,000 light – and an extra million will be needed to cover other charges. Meantime, a simple calculation shows that if you add £200,000 from the Chris Brasher Foundation to Sir Anthony's munificent million, then divide the remainder between donations from Wales and those from England, the US and elsewhere, then it appears that the Welsh value this great national symbol of theirs at roughly 55p a head. (Which, it should be said, does not include the £50 collected by patrons of the Klyn Inn, Wrexham, handed over this week by footballer Ian Rush or the cheque, in the post presumably that was promised last week by the Prince of Wales.)

Still and all, this doesn't mean that the Welsh are tight-fisted, even though you still hear the old joke that the 50p coin was made hexagonal the better to pry it with a pliers off a Cardigan farmer. The real truth is that the Welsh are so divided

over almost everything that affects their lives that it's crazy to expect them to regard without serious suspicion something as major as the future of Snowdon.

And I say that as a Welshman who, true to his national tradition, is as schizoid about the place as well, the entire electorate of a nation, which managed a referendum result for a National Assembly so absurdly close that it was decided by a majority somewhat smaller than the crowd that shows up at the Cardiff v Swansea rugby game. Which, sadly, is not large these days.

And so I am in two minds about sending my contribution to the Snowdonia fund. I am not sure, indeed, that my countrymen deserve Snowdon. Indeed, I never stood a chance of being anything but totally confused on a subject like this one since I was born and raised on the wrong side of its major fault line, the one that divides the Cymru Cymraeg, the Welsh-speaking Welsh from us Anglos.

Allow me to review my case history. My mother was a Jones; her family went back to 17th-century port reeves of Swansea. But my father's lot had come over on a boat from North Devon a couple of hundred years later, which would mean, among other things, that I would never become, for example, the Director of BBC Wales.

Nevertheless, when I went to school, we Anglos were still in the ascendancy. Sure, there was a once-a-week Welsh lesson and I can still say "It's raining" in Welsh, though don't ask me to spell it. It would be another full generation at least before Welsh became so chic that the doctors and lawyers and such of my native city started to send their kids to schools to be taught entirely through the medium of Welsh.



Wales's national Eisteddfod, which earlier this month saw Sir Anthony Hopkins donate £1m to the Snowdonia Appeal

Geraint Lewis

When I went up to university meantime, also in Wales, none of my friends, spoke Welsh, even though the place was full of Cymru Cymraeg undergraduates. There was complete linguistic apartheid. In the students' union, every single election, right down to the secretaryship of the jazz club, was conducted on the language issue. We faced off like Papes and Prods in Ulster: We called them "shuns", a rough phonetic rendering of Sion, which is Welsh for John. God knows what they called us. "Saes", I expect, which is Welsh for Saxon, qualified. I'm sure, by some choice obscenity. But I wasn't a Saes, I knew full well. I didn't want to be a Saes. Trouble was, the Sions wouldn't let me be Welsh either, so sod them, I thought. And if, at that time, you'd have asked me to contribute to the saving of Snowdon I'd have said sod Snowdon, too.

I think I started to change when, in the Sixties, it was decided to flood the Tryweryn Valley in North Wales and "with it" the village, with its school and chapel, that went by the same name. (Getting serious now, see?) A handful of Tryweryn folk demonstrated in Liverpool: it was for a water supply for Liverpool that the valley was going to be sacrificed. The villagers tried to speak at a city council meeting but they were evicted to triumphant catcalls from Bessie Braddock, a loud, heavily built bully of a woman who at the time was a Labour MP when I saw her on film, even in black and white, I knew I had met the real Saes face to face.

After that, I sort of mellowed to the Sions. Gwynfor Evans won a by-election for Plaid Cymru, the party of the Sions, in Carmarthen and, well, Gwynfor was a saint, wasn't he? All in all, I was ripe for a naive sort of conversion, and when, soon after, I went to live in New York, the process was complete. Something in the air there, I suppose.

But it had a lot to do also, I'm sure, with my spending so much time in Irish bars on 2nd Avenue, which nightly rang to the Wolfe Tones and other groups of the same kind hammering out "rebel" songs. Facile they were to the point of daftness, I could see that, and the invincible ignorance of the Irish American audience was plain, too. But they seemed, when they boozily roared out "Boo-lavogue" or "Kevin Barry" to have an identity that I lacked. I didn't know the words of any Welsh songs. They were all in Welsh, see.

So I ended up joining the St David's Society of New York, and at first I was encouraged to learn that in the US – or certainly in New York and Philadelphia – it was actually quite chic being Welsh. Fresh from their own Industrial Revolution, they'd set up the steel mills of Pennsylvania and by the time the Irish arrived they were members in good standing of the best country clubs. Which is why, no doubt, when I opened my invitation to the annual March 1st St David's Day shindig, I found that tickets cost \$150, a lot of money in the mid-Seventies.

With that, and the discovery that

I they held eisteddfodau, I quit the society. I continued my Welsh studies, though, feeding on a rich and heavy diet of Welsh history. We had heroes as gaudy as Brian Boru and William Wallace. Owain Glyndwr scouring Hereford and Shropshire then disappearing into the mist and Owain Law Goch, Owen of the Red Hand, and his men fighting alongside the French against the Saes like Ireland's Wild Geese.

Later I became more sophisticated. The real heroes of Welsh history, I discovered, were different. The Scots and Irish had nationalists: we had nonconformists and socialists. Martyrs too, like Dic Penderyn, hung in Merthyr after the Chartist riots and the striking Welsh miners and railwaymen, just before The Great War, shot dead by soldiers under the command of the Home Secretary, Winston Churchill...

Headly stuff, and headier still when you are 3,000 miles west of reality. By the time I came back to Britain in the mid-Nineties, if Snowdon had been up for grabs, I'd have gone deep into the red to help save it. And it seemed as if my timing had been perfect. Almost the first thing that New Labour did was set up a referendum for a National Assembly for Wales, not as good a deal as the Scots were getting, but it was a start. And, so help me, I joined Plaid Cymru. I had come full circle. In all but language I was a Sion.

What I'd forgotten, of course, was the instinct of my countrymen for keying the self-destruct command, their talent for spontaneous

fission that rivals the amoeba's. Suddenly, Wales itself had become unimportant. Instead, what emerged from its cave to fight the smallest degree of autonomy was dinosauric Welsh Old Labour, terrified of losing its ancient monopoly of power, to become locked in battle with Tony's Own. Nationalists and Tories were irrelevant. Sure, the vote was affected by the old folk from England emerging from their retirement bungalows in Colwyn Bay and Tenby to resist any possibility of the UK breaking up, but if they were Saes oppressors, they could have fooled me.

It was like waking up from, not a bad dream, but one that was only tenuously connected with reality.

To tease English friends I still refer to "The Queen of England" and I still have a sneaky admiration for those kids in Aberystwyth a while back who shamed that lady into turning back when, in (so they believed) insufferably patronizing style, she showed up at the National Library of Wales.

So it has not entirely vanished, that dream, and meantime, what should I do about Snowdon? The straightforward thing, give what I can to keep it for Wales? Or will I simply be handing cash over to a foreign organisation – the National Trust – to make the mountains safe for Saes jocks like Chris Brasher?

I'm still hawking. I'm a Sion, really, see. Aren't I?

## YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

JERRY SADOWITZ

We apologise to readers for not publishing Jerry Sadowitz's answers to your questions, which we considered not worth printing because his response to almost every question was 'Fuck off'.

NEXT WEEK: HOWARD MARKS

Please send any questions you would like to put to the former drug dealer, now writer and columnist Howard Marks, to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail them to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday 28 August

## REVELATIONS

JULIAN LENNON, BARBADOS, CHRISTMAS 1997

# I had to grasp the mantle

I'D ALWAYS thought 30 was just a number until I reached it and started digging up the past, worrying about the future and how long I had left. I've always been pretty analytical, but it struck me harder than I ever thought possible. I'd been manipulated a lot, there had been a lot of respect towards me as an artist in my own right. I had always been promoted as "the son of". But what about me? It bleaches you of your own personality. Being extremely shy, painfully shy, I was always too quiet and polite, never able to confront or find the courage to say No. From day one I never felt the presence of "the shadow", but everyone wanted me to have one, and so I had to struggle and fight to get out from under their preconceptions.

I decided to quit the music business and get off the treadmill of writing, recording and the promo tour. For the first time in my adult life I was really living. I could indulge in my hobbies, like sailing and photography. But with time to reflect, all my problems from the past came to light: on the one hand, I've had such a normal upbringing with my mum, who has kept me grounded; but on the other, the wild experiences through my dad. At the age of four you don't understand why there are fans standing at the gate.

People don't understand that, yes, John Lennon was my biological father, but he left when I was five years old and I may have seen him 10 times in my life after that. With little or no contact, other people have had to stand in, like my stepfather. My real dad's music was a great inspiration to me, both with the Beatles and solo, but as a father he was a totally different kettle of fish. That has always been tough to deal with; it can never be resolved be-

cause he is no longer around. The only thing I can do is look at his life and try to understand where he came from. There is no rule book, and I have nobody to look up to who has been in a similar situation. But these are the cards I've been dealt.

Away from the music business, I learnt to enjoy myself without worrying about whether people were looking at me. When I first came back from the States I lived in the countryside in France. It was probably the first time in my life that I felt anonymity. Although strange at first, it was a wonderful feeling. In America my guard was up, not be-

cause architecture was almost Greek-style, with the soft, white-washed walls, very simple, chilled, and peaceful; which was just as well because I had a big decision to make. I'd just finished an album of new songs. Having financed it myself, it was the first time I had the opportunity to work as I wanted to without someone knocking on the door and saying it's not up-tempo enough, or the chorus isn't commercial enough. But I was still unsure about getting back into the business; it was high risk to my sanity.

I'd invited several friends to join me in the Caribbean, many I

*'For me, composing songs is like self-help therapy. Not being able to speak out, I had bottled up everything inside: shut down and shut up. It was a very sad existence'*

cause of what happened to Dad, but this tendency to try to look after people a lot. With different guests coming every other week, airport runs and island tours (I've been going there for 15 years) I was beginning to feel as if I was running a hotel, and needed a holiday myself. Slowly I realised I was making myself too busy to think.

I've always been bad at decision-making. During my childhood plans would be made for me to see my father and then they'd have to be altered – most probably by managers, not him – so I was brought up expecting there to be changes. Therefore my answer has always been: maybe. I've always found it very hard to say: we'll do it. Finally, I realised I could no longer put off the decision, so I drove round the island on my

own. On the east coast it is very rocky with rugged terrain and there is a part in the north called Little Scotland, because it is so mountainous – it made me feel grounded. I might have enjoyed the last seven years being just Julian Lennon – private citizen and nobody's son, but finally I knew I had to grasp the mantle again. At least this time I would do everything on my own terms.

In the back of my mind I'd always thought of starting my own record company – now I would eventually do it. Not wasting any time, I started finding out the logistics. I seemed to be for ever on the phone and finally a week later I sat down with my business manager and we started the company. It was very quick. I haven't regretted the decision – yet!

This time around it's different. I'm in control personally and professionally. But, most important, I've found my own self-worth as a writer. For me, composing songs is like self-help therapy. Not being able to speak out, I had bottled everything up inside: shut down and shut up. It was a very depressing and sad existence. Now, when times become a little too overwhelming, one of the best ways to resolve them is to get a pen and paper out and say to myself: how do I fix this and become a happier person? Finally, I've found constancy and a balance between creativity and normality. If we're all set a task by our childhoods, this has certainly been mine.

Julian Lennon's new single *I Don't Wanna Know*, released this week, is taken from the album *Photograph Smile*

INTERVIEW BY  
ANDREW G MARSHALL





## CLOTHES LINE



## WHO'S HOT?

SARA DAYKIN, THE NEW FACE OF MIU MIU

NEW FACES in modelling seem to pop up every five minutes these days, but one of the newest, 15-year-old Sara Daykin, could well stay the distance. Daykin, from Swinton, was initially noticed by Select booker Sarah Leao because she was having a blazing row with her Mum, Barbara, in Manchester's Ardale shopping centre. Within weeks, Steven Meisel had whisked her away to photograph her for American and Italian Vogue.

Then David Bailey called her "the new Twiggy", and it took off from there. Now she is the star of Miu Miu's latest advertising campaign (pictured above).

So what is it about her that has

captured the fashion world's imagination? "When I first saw her with her mum," says Leao, "I walked around them three times; Barbara thought I was mad, Sara probably did too. She had never thought of herself as model material." Photographer John Akehurst, who shot the Miu Miu campaign, thinks her appeal lies in the fact that "you can't stick her in a box. There is something behind her beauty that is quite haunting." Refreshingly, Daykin has already turned down big money in favour of schoolwork, being with her mates, and most recently she swapped a £2,000 job for a night in the local disco.

MR

## HOT THING

MANHATTAN PORTAGE RUCKSACK



LONG GONE are the days when rucksacks were firmly strapped only to the backs of climbers, campers and day-tripping hill-walkers. Now they are both fashionable and functional, a necessity for any student embarking on a college career. Manhattan Portage provides one answer to the dilemma of how to stylishly heave books, files and mobile phone from library to lecture to digs and back again.

Set up 25 years ago in New York by John Peters and Rob Hansoo, Manhattan Portage manufactures rucksacks in various shapes (traditional two-strap; asymmetric "J-Bag"; and courier despatch style), sizes and colours to suit even the fussiest of freshers.

Susie, a devotee for the last six years says, "they're super-well made and they last and last. I still use some I had made to order in New York six years ago". Her current favourite is an eggshell-blue J-Bag: "the colour to have, and it holds all essentials."

But she says, a problem for girls with the J-Bag style is that

"the single strap tends to cut into your boobs, especially if worn with a T-shirt, but it's not such a problem when you're wearing a denim jacket or coat". Susie has overcome this by re-adjusting the straps to make an oversize bum bag (this could be a problem if your rucksack is full of rock-hard books).

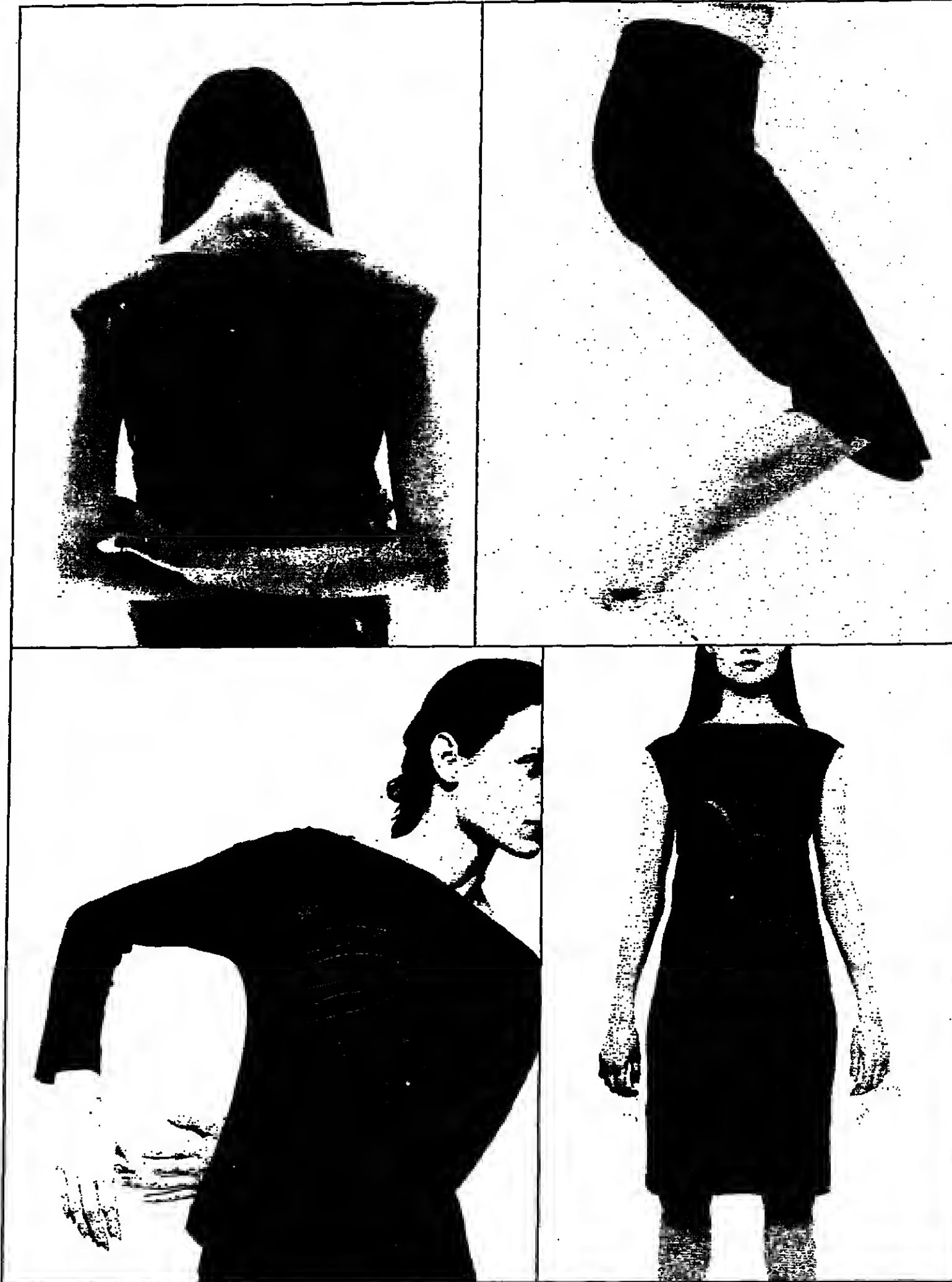
The rucksacks are not cheap - prices start at around £55, and the J-Bag pictured is £60. But consider it an investment purchase which, with a little tender loving care will last through the rigours of at least a three-year course. Jean-Marc from Da Regular Store says: "People buy more for durability than for design. There are so many bad brands around but these can last up to ten years if they're treated right." Set aside part of that meagre grant.

Manhattan Portage from Da Regular Store, 16 Earlham Street, Covent Garden, London WC2, enquiries for nationwide stockists 0771-240-2625

ADAM FULCHER

## FASHION TYPES

Textile Design Student



Top left, sky-blue jersey knee-length shift with circle graphic, £65.

Top right, sleeveless spin print T-shirt (just seen), £35, and denim hip-seam pedal pushers, £45, both by Seraph for TS Design. Jack Purcell leather plimsolls £39.99, available from good sports stores nationwide.

Bottom left, slash-neck spin print T-shirt, £40, by Seraph for TS Design.

Bottom right, slash-neck pimento jersey T-shirt with pink circle graphic, £45. Knee-length jersey skirt, £45. Both by Hussein Chalayan for TS Design. Also available in black and sky-blue.

All clothes will be available from Top Shop, Oxford Circus, London W1 from the end of September with the label TS Design (each designer's work will be clearly indicated in the store). The refurbished Top Shop opens on 3 October. As an added incentive, NUS cardholders receive 10 per cent off at Top Shop.

Photographs: Mauricio Guillen

Stylist: Tamara Cincik

Hair: Jimo Salako

Make-up: Charlotte Tilbury

# There's always room at the top

So, you think you're too old, too rich and too stylish to be seen in Top Shop on a Saturday afternoon? Think again, sister. Because that's where you'll find some of Britain's best designer labels this season. By Melanie Rickey

Hussein Chalayan's clothes are expensive. His new range for TSE New York is bloody expensive. In fact, even his sample sales are pushing the boat out. That's probably why there are a lot of smiley faces in fashionable circles at present, for the 28-year-old designer has agreed to turn his busy hand to designing a range for the high street. Top Shop's TS Design range, to be precise.

It is not only Chalayan who has been invited to "guest-design" a collection. Sherald Lamden of Seraph and the newcomer Tracey Boyd have also jumped on board the good ship Top Shop, and next month their clothes will begin to appear at the new, all-singing-all-catwalking Oxford Street flagship store.

Designers on the high street are nothing new. Debenhams have been doing it successfully for a couple of years. What is different is who the clothes are for, and their price.

Top Shop, as we all know, is the Mecca for teenage girls (and canny shoppers with an eye for a looky-like fashionable finds) everywhere. Shopping at London's Oxford Circus branch in particular is a day out in itself, and when the refurbished store opens at the end of September, it will be even better. There will be six catwalk presentations a week, hair salons, fake tattoo parlours, and enough affordable clothes to kit out a small town. What is even more mind-boggling is the size. The changing-rooms alone will accommodate 2,000 people.

The TS Design range was introduced last year for women with a bit more money to spend on fashion than their (perhaps) younger counterparts, and frankly it looked a bit out

of place among the colourful clobber. Now, however, with designer names to support it, the range will prove absolutely irresistible to regular customers and fashion huffers alike. Each one is carefully targeted at a different type. Chalayan, who says, "I did it because it's so different from what I usually do", has come up with three colours - red, black and sky blue - and one fabric - jersey - which he has turned into simple separates for the girl who likes to look chic with minimal fuss. Slash-neck tops with bracelet-length or no sleeves, vests, slim to-the-knee skirts, and a vest dress are imbued with Chalayan's spare, linear handwriting. Some bear a latex circle graphic, but the overall message is simplicity with a dash of restrictive modernity. Of all the pieces, the black top with slash-neck and bracelet-length sleeves, at £59, is most certain to be a sell-out.

The masterminds of this project are John Hoerner, chief executive of Arcadia (the group that owns Top Shop) and chairman of the British Fashion Council, and Sarah Mower, fashion features editor of Harper's Bazaar, whom Hoerner has employed as his fashion director. The two of them approached Chalayan and Sherald Lamden and, in return for their work, Top Shop are sponsoring their forthcoming catwalk shows for London Fashion Week - something Lamden is ecstatic about. "We've only been independent for a year, so this is a great help," she says.

Her collection for the store has an upbeat, chubby feel. "Top Shop is for good-time girls. I hung out there before I decided what to do because I wasn't given a brief as such; they just asked me to provide the Seraph look." Seraph is also for good-time urban girls. It's funky, eclectic, and buzzing with tiny but all-important details such as twinkling sequins, drawstrings and prints. For Top Shop Lamden gave it a

"spin", as she puts it. "I even wanted to call it 'Spin-Off'." She didn't, in the end, but instead put a spin graphic on to the T-shirts and denim jackets, and gave everything a slightly nautical imprint with a sailor-collared jacket and classic sailor pants, both also made from hard-wearing denim.

Thirtysomething Lamden asserts that she would wear all the clothes herself, "particularly the wide-leg, low-slung jeans (£60) which are the same cut as the ones from Seraph, only with less detail".

Now that "contemporary girl" and "good-time urban girl" have been kitted out at Top Shop there is one space left to fill, which is for "pretty party girl", and this is where Tracey Boyd comes in. Her range will be available at the end of October, and is timed for the party season.

Boyd, 37, started her fashion career as in-house designer for the London boutique Tokio. Two years on, she has her own label. The clothes, which she describes as "strong feminine", are not the least bit wispy or floaty. "I like my clothes to offer support," she says, "and I think about underwear choices." A self-confessed Top Shopaholic, Boyd can't wait to see her new range hanging on the rails. "When I first saw the finished samples I was like Ohmy-god!", she says. "They are such good quality, which is surprising for the high street."

Expect party dresses in gorgeous colours such as dusty violet, soft lilac, and what Boyd describes as "dirty celadon", a kind of greenish-grey. As a final flourish, Boyd has designed the perfect party-entrance coat, with a fake fur collar to match the decadent mood of the dresses.

Now that Top Shop really is for Everywoman, and not just Everygirl, who can resist? I certainly can't. See you in the queue.



# Clinton goes visiting as support fades



Bill Clinton leaving to address yesterday's special meeting of party faithful

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday went among the American people for the first time since his televised admission of a "not appropriate" relationship with Monica Lewinsky in a short excursion to test whether he could still work his personal magic on the voters.

The exercise, in a city described as the most Democratic in the country, came amid signs that senior Democrats and members of Mr Clinton's administration fear his conduct will be an electoral liability.

His re-emergence coincided with more bad news for the Democrats after the announcement by the Attorney-General, Janet Reno, that she was launching a new investigation into the legality of fund-raising by Vice-President Al Gore before the last election. It supplements an existing fund-raising inquiry and will consider new and damaging evidence that Mr Gore may have lied to investigators in an earlier investigation.

While the new inquiry means Ms Reno is still resisting Republican pressure to ap-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

point an independent prosecutor into Mr Gore's activities, it adds another wave to the tide of dubious conduct and sleaze lapping at the Clinton presidency.

Mr Clinton's appearance began in mid-morning when he left his borrowed holiday estate on Martha's Vineyard for Worcester, a half-hour flight away. The occasion was a hastily arranged forum on school safety and juvenile crime, and a party fund-raising event.

The previous day his Democratic hosts had dominated the airwaves to evince unalloyed delight that he was to honour their city with a visit and said there had been no difficulty filling the 2,000 seats, even at two days' notice. During his brief address, largely a pastiche of speeches given in recent weeks, Mr Clinton looked tired and at times slightly distracted. He had bags under his eyes, and, unusually, stumbled twice over his words.

Preparations for his trip

came amid speculation that he was preparing to say something more, perhaps even apologise for his affair with Ms Lewinsky. While accepted, according to polls, by most voters, his admission 10 days before was assessed by many advisers as a



Gore: Faces new inquiry

failure. Their main criticism was that it had lacked conviction and exhibited defiance towards the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr.

In the event, Mr Clinton said nothing yesterday about the affair or the other pressing subject of the day, the Russian

economic collapse and accompanying fall of the US stock market.

Mr Clinton's silence on his relationship with Ms Lewinsky was seen as a victory for his lawyer and his wife over White House advisers who were said to have argued strongly for a fuller and more sordid statement that would dispel memories of the earlier admission.

Mr Clinton's personal lawyer, David Kendall, was said to have strongly opposed any further statement because of the legal risk. Mrs Clinton was also said to be opposed on the grounds that it would simply perpetuate public discussion of a hurtful episode that she would prefer to keep private.

But the arguments said to be raging in the White House over a further statement were being replicated up and down the Democratic hierarchy. Republican contenders for seats in November's mid-term congressional elections are already starting to campaign on a "morality and credibility" platform. Barbara Boxer, one of California's senators, who is re-

lated by marriage to Mrs Clinton and faces a close contest in November, was berated repeatedly on the subject during a televised candidates' debate on Wednesday.

The White House is simultaneously increasing pressure on leading Democrats to toe the official line more enthusiastically in public. This boils down to indignation about the "violation of the President's private life", regret for what happened, and determination to "get this matter behind us and get back to running the country".

Dick Gephardt, Democrat minority leader in the House of Representatives and a possible rival of Mr Gore for the presidential nomination in 2000, has shifted his ground on Mr Clinton's conduct. He initially condemned it as "reprehensible" and said he could not immediately rule out impeachment hearings. Since then, Mr Gephardt has given two interviews, stressing the need to "get this matter behind us" and wait for Mr Starr's report.

Suzanne Moore, Review, page 3

## 'Turandot' to be staged in Forbidden City

TURANDOT is going home. For nine glorious nights, Puccini's best-loved opera (at least since the Italia '90 World Cup took "Nessun Dorma" to the top of the charts) will be performed by a cast of thousands in the Forbidden City, the vast imperial compound in the heart of Peking.

Zubin Mehta, who will conduct the extravaganza, said the only difference between this production and the Turandot he conducted last year in Florence would be the lack of specially built sets and, appropriately for the world's most populous nation, rather more extras on the stage.

Mehta is bringing the chorus and orchestra from the Florence Opera House, but about two-thirds of the cast of 1,000 dancers, members of a children's chorus and extras - will be Chinese.

"Puccini remains Puccini. But it does inspire you," Mehta said, indicating the gold tiled roofs and red walls of the 500-year-old Temple for Worshipping Ancestors, now part of the Working People's Cultural Palace, just east of the popular tourist sites of the imperial grounds.

The temple is built on a huge stone platform that makes a natural outdoor stage.

BY JAMES ROBERTS

Yesterday, young soldiers rehearsing in green camouflage pants and Turandot T-shirts pounded an urgent, thundering boom on Chinese drums.

Michael Ecker, the producer, said the \$15m (£9m) production was unlikely to make a profit, but would probably break even. He has recruited Zhang Yimou, the film director, to direct the opera.

Zhang, known internationally for films such as *Story of Qiu Ju* and the Oscar-nominated *Raise the Red Lantern* has said he knew nothing about Western opera until he was asked to direct last year's Turandot in Italy.

"At first it was confusing - another heavy-set person on stage and I don't know who's who," he said in one interview. "But then they sang and it hit me how beautiful the human voice is. Exquisite. It was very moving." Zhang said he now stops to listen to opera every time he catches some while flipping channels on television.

Mehta says Zhang has a great sense of theatre. "He knows the musical cues. He knows exactly when a piece of music needs another 50 people brought in."

### IN BRIEF

#### Libya seeks to delay transfer

LIBYA SAID it wanted a delay in handing over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a PanAm flight over Lockerbie, but would stick by its agreement to hold their trial in the Netherlands. Officials said the government of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi "needs some time to prepare" for the men's transfer to the Netherlands.

#### Hurricane batters Carolina coast

MORE THAN a million people living in the coastal areas of North Carolina were without power yesterday after Hurricane Bonnie battered the southern shoreline. Strong winds and torrential rain caused extensive flooding of the barrier islands along the coast but there were no reported casualties.

#### More surgery for bomb family

THE BRITISH family wounded in the Planet Hollywood restaurant bomb blast in Cape Town have undergone further surgery to remove shrapnel. Tony Giddings, 38, from Southampton, had more serious head and leg injuries than first thought. Doctors operated on the spine of Jacob, three, after amputating the foot of Laura, eight.

#### Chinese halt clergyman's services

CHINESE POLICE prevented a defiant Protestant minister from holding services in his popular underground church yesterday after he conducted a mass baptism of 300 in a factory pool on 1 August. The Rev Yuan Xiangchen was stopped by police as he left his suburban Peking home.

#### Serbs block UN aid convoy

THE UN refugee agency has accused the Serbs of blocking an aid convoy in Kosovo. The UNHCR said it was the first time since the start of hostilities in Kosovo that a humanitarian convoy had been turned back. The convoy had been on its way to two villages - Brolic and Skirvan.

HELEN LIDDELL

'After every trip by Tony Blair to Scotland, our morale is boosted'

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

Connect to  
Cellnet today  
and we'll pay you  
£50.

This great offer must end August 31st

See in store now for details or call 0800 40 50 30.

august offer

cellnet it's in your hands

Lines open between 7am and 11pm Mon - Sat. Terms and conditions apply. Telecom Securicor Cellular Radio Limited



# Spencer and Fayed, divided by death

Two men, closely linked to Diana, seemed united in grief. But the old divisions re-emerged as both suffered very bad years

It was a sight few people will ever forget. The 9th Earl Spencer in the pulpit of Westminster Abbey, choking back tears as he launched a bitter attack on the House of Windsor. More than a billion people watched him as he stood only yards from the Queen, vowing to protect the Princes William and Harry from the furies which had caused his sister so much pain.

"We will not allow them to suffer the anguish that used regularly to drive you to despair," he promised his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales. "And beyond that, on behalf of your mother and sisters, I pledge that we, your blood family, will do all we can to continue the imaginative way in which you were steering these two exceptional young men so that their souls are not simply immersed by duty and tradition but can sing openly as you planned."

It seemed to be what the nation had been waiting for. In contrast to the cold absence of the Royals, the burning hot pain of a wounded person with real feelings that mirrored their own.

And we believed him. We believed he would help these vulnerable children to escape the evil clutches of the monarchy and all the black abnormality that goes with it.

Sitting in the transept, wiping tears from his eyes, was Mohamed al-Fayed, the father of Dodi - the man who had made the Princess of Wales happy for the first time in years.

After a decade of being eschewed by the Establishment, of being portrayed as the arch-villain, the man who acquired Harrods by deceit, it seemed that Mr Fayed had finally been accepted by the nation that would not give him its nationality. It had happened by the most terrible means - the death of his son - but it appeared his years in the wilderness were over.

Two men, so completely different, had touched a nation by their association with an extraordinary person and it seemed some of her magic would rub off on them and stick.

But it did not. A year on, the two men who seemed redeemed by the tragedy are again condemned. There are no winners in the story, but if there are losers, they are Lord Spencer and Mr Fayed.

Lord Spencer's fall is easiest to chart. It was brought about by hypocrisy. When, after turning his sights from the Windsors at Diana's funeral service, he rounded on the media who he claimed had hounded his sister to death, newspaper editors ran for cover. But when they discovered that the Earl, like Prince Charles, also had a wife driven to an eating disorder by his adultery, they rapidly re-emerged.

Lord Spencer, 34, had chosen to divorce his wife, Victoria, 33, in South Africa, where he lives, rather than in England, where settlements are invariably higher. During the hearing last December, it became clear why he was so anxious to muzzle the press - because he had so much to hide.

His wife teamed up with Lord Spencer's former mistress, Chantal Colpo, and between them they painted a picture of a cruel and arrogant man, a drunkard who had bedded a dozen women while his wife was recovering from an eating disorder at a private clinic. In comparison, the Prince of Wales appeared angelic.

After days of bile spewed in and out of the courtroom, Lord Spencer ended up settling with Victoria for £1,815,000 cash,

joint custody of their four children - after describing his wife as an "unfit mother" - and a £250,000 home in Cape Town.

Once the dust had settled, Lord Spencer sought refuge in the memory of his sister. His reputation, his thinking appeared to go, was inextricably linked to hers. But the more he did in her name, the more he appeared to cheapen it.

There was loud criticism over the conversion of stables at the family home, Althorp, into a museum dedicated to Diana, her life and times and, inevitably, her dresses. Some thought the admission fees, at £9.50 with "at least 10 per cent" going to charity, were too high while others, notably the Archbishop of York, David Hope, said it had contributed to an un-

## AFTER DIANA

THE OUTSIDERS  
BY STEVE BOGGAN



healthy cult. Throughout the year, Lord Spencer's plans for his sister's memory - a pop concert near her grave, tours of Althorp - drew criticism. Whether warranted or not, he had quite clearly become a target for the press he had so chided.

"It is difficult for people to understand how completely he was overcome by Diana's death," said a colleague who worked with Lord Spencer in television. "They were very young when their mother left them, so they grew closer than most brothers and sisters. Some of his behaviour is a little worrying, almost obsessive, and that has led to some errors of judgement. To criticise some of the projects undertaken by the Diana memorial committee as tacky, and then go on to plan a pop concert yourself, was seen as a bit silly."

"But he needs to be given some leeway. This has been an unimaginably terrible year for him. Give the guy a break."

The fall of Mr Fayed stemmed from many sources. He saw persecution and rejection at every turn. He genuinely believed his son was murdered by the security services because he was a muslim who was about to marry the mother of the next King of England.

He insists Dodi and Diana were planning to marry - something the Spencers

and the Windsors reject out of hand. And he still stands alone in his claims that Diana uttered these last words: "I would like all my possessions in Dodi's apartment to be given to my sister Sarah, including my jewellery and my personal clothes and please tell her to take care of my boys."

All the evidence suggests there were no last words and the person who was supposed to have conveyed them to Mr Fayed, a nurse, does not exist. The fabrication of such a last message, when all the medical evidence says she could not have spoken, is something the Spencers and Windsors cannot forgive.

Mr Fayed believes that at the root of the continuing refusal to grant him citizenship is racism - rather than the criticism of his character and honesty contained in a Department of Trade and Industry report into his acquisition of Harrods in 1985. When, immediately after the tragedy, he was shunned and slighted by the Windsors and the Spencers, this belief welled up into a tide of bitterness and anger. Mr Fayed's grief, it seemed, counted for nothing; the life of his son, a muslim and a commoner, was less important than the life of a Christian aristocrat.

Mr Fayed, 66, has never been known for his lightness of touch. He hires expensive public relations people to do his talking for him, but often he speaks over them in a torrent he later regrets. So it was to be with the death of his son.

In spite of the fact that his employee Henri Paul, the driver of the Mercedes in which his son died, was drunk and in spite of evidence that the car had problems with its brakes, Mr Fayed until this week did not acknowledge that his own staff at the Ritz might be to blame. The Spencers would have a good case against him should they choose to sue. Instead, he prefers to argue that dark forces were at work. He likes to draw attention to something Diana once said herself: "One day I'm going to go up in a helicopter and it'll just blow up. M5 will do away with me."

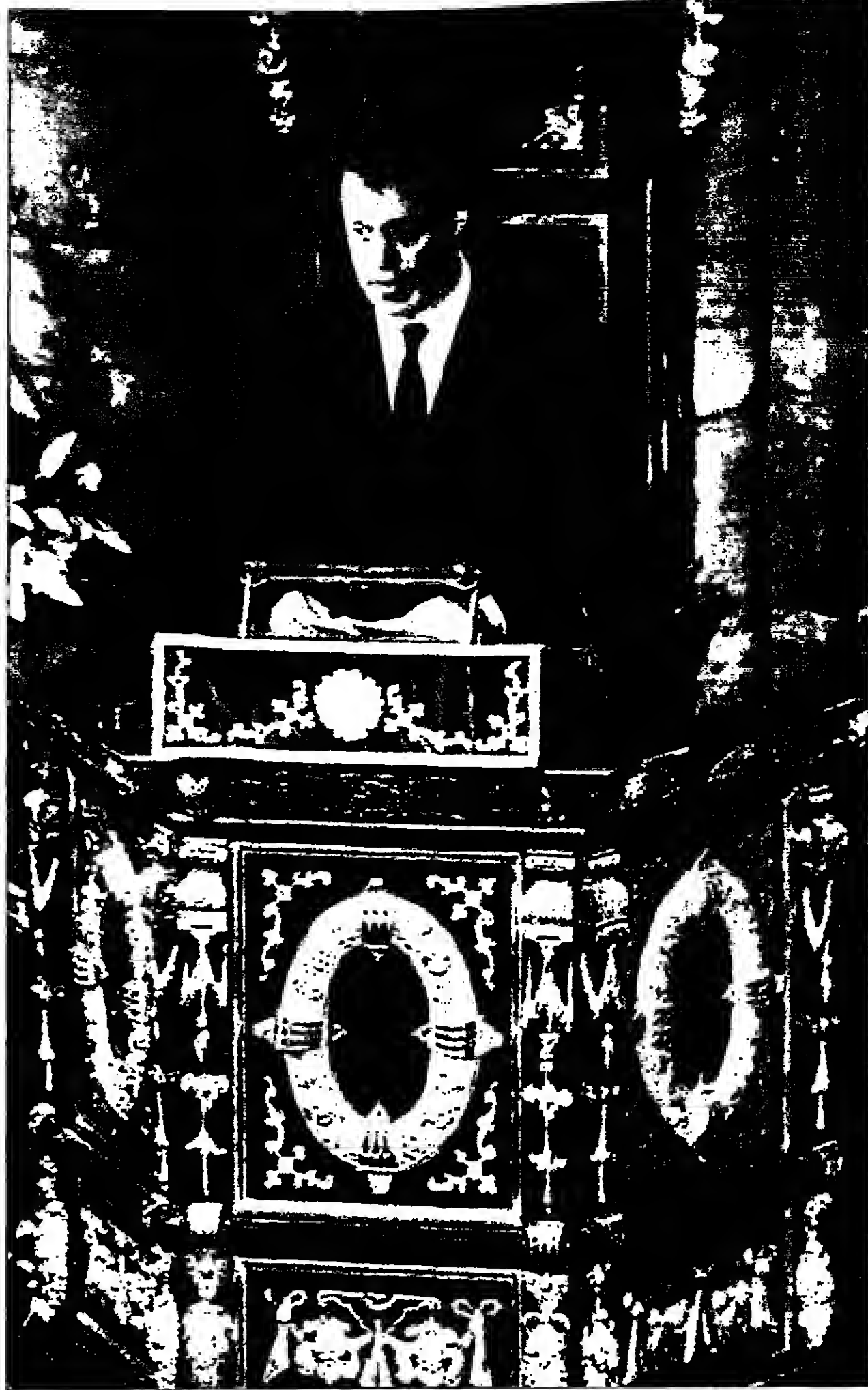
Many of the public believe him, but the Spencers and the Windsors do not. They feel his claims are sensational and do nothing to help the Princess overcome the death of their mother. As a result, they refuse to speak to him and, in the kind of underhanded way that caused Diana to refer to them as "the Enemy", they plant stories about him in the tabloid press. In one of these stories, he was accused of trying to buy the princess's affections with gifts which, according to a Buckingham Palace source, were left unopened, given to charity or locked away in the bowels of the palace.

"Charles was astonished when the first presents turned up from Harrods," the newspaper quoted "a close friend" as saying. "Then more and more arrived. It was extremely inappropriate. The boys had lost their mother - a new toy wasn't going to cheer them up."

"They were never fond of this man before their mother died and that remains very much the case."

"That was a very hurtful story," said an associate of Mr Fayed. "I have personally seen letters of thanks the boys have written to him. He got to know them quite well when they went on holiday and he is very fond of them. All these put-downs are having a terrible effect on him."

But there were more. His 12-year sponsorship of the Windsor Horse Show, which is attended by the Queen, was terminat-



Earl Spencer giving his moving address at Westminster Abbey. Left, Mohamed al-Fayed, also at the funeral

ed and he was informed that Harrods was to lose its royal warrants, which indicated the withdrawal of royal patronage.

Finally it all became too much when Mr Fayed and Frances Shand Kydd, Diana's mother, were summoned by Judge Hervé Stephan, the examining magistrate in the case, to attend a hearing in Paris in June. Mrs Shand Kydd refused to speak to Mr Fayed, a snub that resulted in a torrent of abuse outside the courthouse.

"She is pursuing her matters, I am pursuing mine," he said. "She lost her daughter and I lost my son. She's a snob. She's not a good mother either. If you leave your child when she is six years old, how can you call yourself a mother? She thinks she's related to The Queen Mother, and this is a kind of snobbery. I don't give a damn about her."

Any chance he might ever have had of patching things up vanished in a puff of angry smoke.

"He feels that people remember Diana but they don't give a damn about his loss, about Dodi," said the associate. "As far as he is concerned, his son was going to marry Diana - he told him 20 minutes before the crash - and he was told her last words at the hospital. You can understand

why he thinks there is a racist conspiracy. He simply believes there is no way the British establishment would have allowed a dark-skinned chap from north Africa to become step-father to the King of England. And that hurts."

It was perhaps inevitable that, as the anniversary of Diana and Dodi's deaths approached, the two men most damaged by the tragedy should turn on each other.

When Lord Spencer opened the museum to Diana last month, Mr Fayed was astonished to find there was no reference to his son in it. Pronouncing himself "disgusted", he said: "I am sure the people who visit will be amazed there isn't a mention of Dodi's name and there are so many of Prince Charles, who brought her so much unhappiness. Earl Spencer just wants to get back at me. Why is Earl Spencer distancing himself from the relationship between his sister and my son? He himself admitted in his speech on the day of her funeral that she had finally found happiness in her private life."

Lord Spencer had already made clear in a television interview what he thought of Mr Fayed's claims of last words and marriage. "There were no last words," he said. "Her injuries were such that it was im-

possible for her to say anything. The French doctors were adamant and my family believed them. It is very upsetting that anyone should want to suggest otherwise. Why should anyone want to do that? To pretend somebody said something when they were supposedly dying? It's monstrous, isn't it?"

On Mr Fayed's claims of a conspiracy, he said: "I have seen absolutely no evidence that it was anything other than a tragic accident."

And on the prospects of Dodi and Diana marrying: "Certainly none of my family are aware of any plans for them to marry. I think we all know what the early stages of a relationship are like. It is heady and exciting. Tragically their relationship never went beyond that heady stage. Speculation about what might have happened is completely ridiculous in my view."

A year on, one can only wonder what Diana would have made of it all. Of the grieving, the mountains of flowers, the garlands bearing her signature and the bitter enmity that has grown between two men she cared for. Perhaps, given her nature, she would simply have urged us to remember that one of them has lost a sister and the other has lost a son.

## We thought her death had changed us...

On 31 August 1997, the nation suddenly seemed a different place. Today the woman in the street is not so sure

Manda Clunes, 39, novelist  
When I was watching the coverage of the Orkney tragedy, some politicians said these people's lives would not be forgotten, but sadly, however devastated we are at the time, we move on. Diana will not be forgotten, the way Kennedy will not be forgotten, but this wanting to change and sticking to it is like making New Year's resolutions. We always break them. I would like to think there'd be a legacy, and in some aspects there is. I suppose there is no need to be cynical about it. But it is possible to maintain that depth of feeling? The whole thing about grief is that you are supposed to get over it.

I think we've changed, but it was not quite an overnight thing. The seeds had been sown much earlier. Diana died not long after Labour came into power so I think we were already thinking we had reached a new era that she was part of. She was a reaction to all that awful Thatcherism of the Eighties, she was never in tune with that. The powers that be are trying to



Manda Clunes: 'We've changed, but it was not an overnight thing'

make the Queen change. The Queen recently visited McDonald's, but it's just insulting to think that any of us would fall for that. I think she was responding to the public approval that Diana got by taking the boys to the cinema and Thorpe Park.

Somehow we now think there is more virtue in being a common per-

son than in being the Queen. Virtue isn't about your lifestyle, it's about how you treat people. Diana has changed us because now we have this tiresome culture of the common man, which is just as tiresome as the culture of the yuppie and just as real. Whatever her shortcomings were, the important thing about her was her struggle to have humanity. It had nothing to do with class, gender or orientation.

I still find the Royal Family unappealing. When they supposedly came down to be with the people outside Buckingham Palace before the funeral they stood there po-faced and inexpressive, but when a few months later their boat was being decommissioned they were in floods of tears. Whatever they thought of her, a young woman who dies leaving two children must be more important than a boat.

Anna Simons, 36, housewife, Richmond, Surrey  
I think one of the reasons people were upset about Diana's death is that




they can't read about what she's up to any more. She spiced life up a bit. I don't think it has changed society, but the paparazzi can't go nipping around as they used to, and that's rather nice. The only thing that changed temporarily was hypocrisy. I think people were genuinely sad. But dreadful tragedies go on all the time.

I don't think the nation has changed. There was all this talk of us becoming more caring, but I don't know what we were supposed to do. Friends of mine who donate to cancer or heart research funds have kept on giving, but I don't know of anyone who has started giving to charities just because Diana has died.

The Royal Family has changed because it has had to be more sympathetic to the public's views. I don't know if that is healthy. If you turn the royals into one of the people their specialness waters down and they won't last. They've all lived very odd lives. I don't think I need them to turn human, but Diana was just different.

Sharanne Basham-Pyke, 36, IT consultant, Newport, South Wales  
The Royal Family is an old tradition but it's worthwhile because it brings tourists. The death of Diana really affected me because I am about the same age, and have two children. I think all people could find something in her that they could relate to themselves, whether it was divorce, eating disorders, or just the shock of a young person dying. The death of a young person seems wrong and I think that was what people were grieving about. A year on, I'm dubious about the press respecting privacy, and our unity in grief was short-lived. But Diana's death was a real milestone in British history. It marked a particular time. So many people can remember what they were doing when she died, but people soon moved back to their position before; they still feel the level of sadness but don't show it now as they did when it happened. As a nation I don't think we have changed at all.

INTERVIEWS BY CAITIE WILLIAMS

THE MEDIA	
IN THE INDEPENDENT THIS WEEK	
AFTER DIANA	THURSDAY
THE MONARCHY	THE LEGACY
	
FRIDAY	SATURDAY

24/11/2015



# Playing straight

Josie Lawrence made her name as the Queen of Improv. Nowadays she's being taken seriously as an actor. So what's her real line anyway? By James Rampton

In the early Nineties, Josie Lawrence was hotter than the current weather in Cyprus. "With Whose Line Is It Anyway?", things just went "whoosh" for me," the actor/comedian recalls. "People wanted me for this and that - all those articles like 'What's In My Fridge?' and 'Who's Under My Carpet?'."

But as surely as night follows day, backlash follows success. Lawrence's solo series on Channel 4, *Josie*, was scythed down by the critics like a particularly overgrown poppy. "I can talk about it now," she gulps. "I went to Italy to make the film *Enchanted April* and picked up a two-day-old English newspaper. The reviewers gave me such a knock; they said 'this is not funny'. I was sitting next to Joan Plowright and she said, 'this can happen in this business'. She told me about the bad reviews Larry had had. She was the perfect person to be sitting next to. It doesn't hurt to be thumped from time-to-time. Kicks can strengthen you. But there's a point where you have to say, 'no more kicks, I'm strong enough now.'"

Although the series had its high points - people still come up to her and remember fondly her "tired and emotional" sketches and Grace Fields send-ups - Lawrence reflects now that "I should have made it more wacky, like the stuff I do at the Comedy Store. Perhaps I was trying to say [affects her best Joyce Grenfell accent] 'but I'm an actress'."

No one doubts that she is an actress now - and a top-class one, at that. As

the song says: she got knocked down, but she got back up again. Dusted herself down after the critical pummeling, she immediately threw herself on to the stage. She was soon starring as Beatrice in the Manchester Royal Exchange's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, for which she won the *Manchester Evening News* Best Actress Award, and as Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew* at the RSC, where she was picked up the Dame Peggy Ashcroft Award for Best Actress.

Even then, people initially accused her of first-degree counter-jumping. "There were a couple of occasions when theatre directors said, 'we won't see her because she's a comic'. It wasn't a wrong assumption. I didn't resent it. I understood it. But then as soon as you get good theatre roles, they know you can do it."

She is proving that once again in *Alarms and Excursions*, the new four-hander by Michael Frayn that co-stars Felicity Kendal, Nicky Katt and Robert Bathurst and opens at the Gielgud Theatre in London's West End on 10 September. Over the course of eight vignettes bound together by the broad theme of (lack of) communication, Lawrence plays everything from a stern wife on holiday to an air stewardess delivering a safety demonstration laden with sexual innuendo. All in all, she displays the versatility of Daley Thompson.

Dressed all in black, Lawrence is contentedly sipping a fruit juice in the

bar of the Theatre Royal after a matinee of *Alarms and Excursions* that seemed to go down well with the good burghers of Bath. She gives off the relaxed air of someone who, after a few wrong turnings, has safely found her way home.

For all her recent successes in the theatre and on television (including three series of the ITV cricketing sitcom *Outside Edge*), Lawrence remains refreshingly immune to the lurvia virus that infects so many actors. Given to casting her eyes down in a manner reminiscent of another tall and glamorous woman, she is almost painfully modest. "I've never been flirted with or been asked back to the casting couch," she sighs with mock-sadness. "Perhaps they're scared I'll break it."

Now, at the age of 38, her one regret is that there are not better roles for women actors as they get older. "I guess that's what it's like in this business," she laments. "I'd like to have said to Shakespeare, 'I like your work, William, but why do you write so much for men?' Also, I enjoy a girly chat. In our dressing-room at the Comedy Store, it's always bloody football and cricket. I loved it when Eddie Izzard was there because then we could both talk make-up together."

In all her "straight" theatre, Lawrence has found her grounding in improvisation a great source of comfort. "I just want to entertain people - whether they're laughing or crying. Impro helps because if you can go on

and make a thousand people laugh with no script, then a scripted piece should be no problem."

She has clearly not forgotten her roots. Whenever she can, Lawrence dashes back to London for a Sunday night appointment with the improv troupe, the Comedy Store Players, that she has kept most weeks for the past 12 years. "I wouldn't like to be one of those people who gets known for something and then pooh-poohs it when they do something else. I'm proud that I'm known for making people laugh because I know how difficult it is. If it doesn't go well, it's the worst thing in the world. If it does, it's the best. It's like sex - you still keep doing it. Impro is good therapy for us. You often think, 'where did that come from?' If they sat me down in a psychiatrist's chair and asked me what I get up to on a Sunday night, they'd probably keep me in there."

All the same, Lawrence shows no signs of wanting to kick the habit. "I've been at long Sunday lunches with friends, and when they've been able to have that extra glass of wine and I've had to go off to work, I have been jealous. But once you get on stage, you forget that. I really wouldn't mind carrying on till I'm an old dear lifting my Zimmer frame on to the stage."

She'll just have to be careful the other Players don't try to use it as a prop.

*'Alarms and Excursions' opens at the Gielgud Theatre, London (0171-494 5519) on 10 September*



"I've never flirted with the casting couch. Perhaps they're scared I'll break it"

## A diva's masterclass in life, love and laughter

THE TRUEST line of Barbara Cook's week-long engagement in the Divas at the Donmar season comes in her opening song "Let me sing... and I'm happy". She sure is, and as her devoted followers will attest, she's not alone.

There are times at a Cook concert when you feel you're at a meeting of the faithful but with good reason. Her radiant voice generates kilowatts of pleasure and audiences just bask in it. A former Broadway favourite, Cook hasn't appeared in a dramatic

role in years but who cares when her singing spins character and situation seemingly out of thin air.

Back in the 1950s, she spent evenings sneaking into Manhattan night spots to watch Judy Garland singing for pleasure. That taught her how to thread a song along an invisible dramatic line from start to finish, but if this conjures up the image of overwrought emotionalism, think again. Many singers go for generalised emotions to paint the big picture, as if to say, "This is a song in

which I am extremely unhappy, giddy?", taking three minutes to run the gamut from terminal misery to suicide with show-off vibrato. Not Cook. She does detail, doesn't anticipate, and acts on the line.

Take her amused version of Duke Ellington's fairly inconsequential "I'm Beginning to See the Light". It's a song about someone who never understood romance until now. Wally Harper's lightly fingered piano playing fairly twinkles against the strut and snap of Steve McManus's bass

### MUSIC

BARBARA COOK  
DONMAR WAREHOUSE

as Cook, wide-eyed and confiding, goes in for a little light swing, listing all the romantic clichés she never previously understood. Then, just before the end, she leans against the piano over Harper's harmonic suspension and musingly reprises the key moments of the lyric, "afterglow, mistletoe, [with accent] rose wine,

lantern shine..." before releasing everything on the last line in a shudder of pleasure. She's also skittish on comedy, gleefully tossing off Billy Rose's little-known and absurdly sexist hymn to domestic bliss, "When I'm Cooking Breakfast For the One I Love", dedicated to her "good friend Germaine Greer".

Conversely, she takes a hackneyed number like "This Nearly Was Mine" from *South Pacific* but her placing of every musical and lyrical expression makes you bear it as

if for the first time. Surprise and delight flood her voice and face as she builds to the exultant climax of "I'm in Love With a Wonderful Guy". Faced with a storm of applause, she shakes her head. "Boy, I tell you, that's good writing." This isn't self-deprecation. She believes she's there for the music and lyrics, rather than the other way round.

Wally Harper's sublime arrangements continue to set the standard for all other cabaret artists - was it his inspired idea to craft a solo ver-

sion of Sondheim's "You Could Drive A Person Crazy"? And he and the excellent bass-player McManus get to hear Cook every night. You might be able to get in to hear her this afternoon giving an unpublished Masterclass. Alternatively, you could just get on your knees and beg for a ticket to the show. After all, it's a masterclass in itself.

To Sat, Donmar Warehouse, London WC2 0171-369 1732

DAVID BENEDICT

## Swedish prog rock: the soundtrack of all our lives



Soundtrack Of Our Lives - advocates of epic guitar solos, lofty lyrics and irrepressible posturing

WITH THEIR farcical hybrid of blues, country and punk, Ten Benson comprise the kind of smart humour that the music industry is conspicuously starved of at present. Word has it that they are not yet signed, though they have already found their way on to one of Radio 1's Evening Sessions and have even managed to pack out one of London's stickier venues on a Monday night. Dressed in baseball caps and dickie-bows as if about to serve up a Big Mac and fries, they brim with sardonic irreverence. Their android vocals, deadpan faces and automated gestures make you feel as if you have stumbled upon some eerie Lynchian apparition. It is a simply constructed and rather disarming formula designed to make you think that they act like this all the time.

### POP

SOUNDTRACK OF OUR LIVES/TEN BENSON  
THE GARAGE, LONDON

Mulder and Scully would have a field day.

They certainly provide a bizarre contrast to the combustible, guitar-driven, pseudo-psychedelic Swedish act Soundtrack Of Our Lives. I would have gladly given up my enviable position under the air-conditioning to find out what the two band's backstage small talk consisted of.

This hulking six-man band from Gothenburg are every inch a "rock" band - all flouncy hair, eyeliner and tight trousers. Advocates of epic guitar solos, lofty lyrics and irrepressible posturing, Soundtrack are single-handedly trying to

bring about a Seventies prog revival. And I'm sure Emerson, Lake and Palmer didn't have nearly as much fun.

Rumours prevailed after Soundtrack's support slot with Kula Shaker last year that Paul Winterhart, Kula Shaker's drummer felt compelled to ask Soundtrack's drummer for lessons. Sure enough, Winterhart is lurking at the back of the gig, banging his head with the best of them.

Dressed in floor-length robes, vocalist Ebbert Lundberg materialises from a cloud of dry ice like a giant, bear-bellied seraph, arms aloft in mock adulation, as he launches into the bizarrely titled "Chromosome Layer". The rest of the band are similarly ostentatious although absurdly incongruous. An archetypal Soho pin-up complete with Action Man grin, Martin

Hederos entices a gaggle of glowing girls and cavorting boys in front of his keyboard while guitarist Ian Persson's trailing blood tresses and black finger-nails draw an assemblage of shaggy headbangers. Mattias Barjed is a dead ringer for Take That's Mark Owen (though in possession of considerably more verve) and his performance culminates in true rock-god style when he plays his guitar with his backside.

London crowds are notoriously difficult to please and this lot were clearly disconcerted by the ribald band of Swedes, but by the encore they were baying for more. Soundtrack's brand of psychedelic rock may sound dated at times, but they must be congratulated for the sheer effrontery of their performance.

FIONA STURGES

**BUY YOUR GAS AND ELECTRICITY FROM  
BRITISH GAS AND SAVE AROUND 12%**

Get another great offer from British Gas. Buy your gas and electricity from us and you could be saving around 12% on your current home energy bill.

To find out more call 0845 35 93 93 or visit our website [www.britishtogas.co.uk](http://www.britishtogas.co.uk)

**British Gas**  
Home Energy

\*Savings based on moving from our cash/cheque payment to monthly direct debit for gas and comparing our average direct debit prices for electricity with the average of the local monthly direct debit tariffs of each local electricity supplier as at 1st July 1998. Based on an annual consumption of 16,850kWh for gas and 3,500kWh for electricity.



# EDINBURGH FESTIVAL '98

## Are Brits coming or going?

The image of Cool Britannia may have taken a pasting from *The Avengers*, but a new batch of British films show that we are capable of doing another Monty, if we don't try too hard. By Liese Spencer

"THE BRITISH are coming" proclaimed the Oscar-winner Colin Welland back in 1982, and it's a rallying call that has been echoing hollowly down the years ever since. Still, if the Hollywood invasion never quite happened, hope and hype spring eternal. Not a year goes past without the trumpeting of a renaissance in UK cinema. Last year's Edinburgh find, *The Full Monty*, sent a ripple of excitement through the industry all over again, but did this film really mark a revival or was its international box office success just a happy accident?

Open this week's American trade rag, *Variety*, and you'll be in no doubt as to the answer. "The myth of Cool Britannia was laid to rest Aug 14" reads the paper's front page. "When Warner Bros let the world see why it was so embarrassed by *The Avengers*," this year's "least cool" movie, they suggest, is symptomatic not only of Hollywood's misplaced enthusiasm for swinging London, but also of an uncertain UK industry trying to square last year's hype with this year's reality. So are the British coming or going? Edinburgh Film Festival, with its special section devoted to the first fruits of Britain's lottery-funded production boom, seems as good a place as any to find out.

Here are movies that challenge both what it means to be a "British film", and established notions of national identity. David Yates's impressive feature debut *The Tichborne Claimant* puts a pleasing, post-colonial spin on the atrophied period picture with its tall tale of the 19th-century butcher who became a pretender to a Victorian baronetcy. Narrated by his African manservant Bogle, the film's enjoyably convoluted plot travels from the Australian outback to the music halls of London, deftly dismantling imperialist myths along the way.

Stuffed with a sterling supporting cast of venerable British actors from Sir John Gielgud to Stephen Fry, *The Tichborne Claimant* has all the hallmarks of that great British staple, the costume drama. But the sheer skill with which Yates plots and paces his expansive story marks it out from the film arm of our heritage business as an altogether more lively prospect. Hugely entertaining, *The Tichborne Claimant* has a visual eloquence that deserves to be seen on the big screen - whether it makes it there is another matter. De-



Seaside noir from 'I Want You' (above) and Jason Connery in the chilling 'Urban Ghost Story' (below) Marcus Robinson

spite interest from Paramount, the film has yet to find a distributor. "Audience reactions have been very positive," says Yates, "which is good, because I know that from a marketing perspective it's a nightmare. It doesn't have a love story and it's not all about frocks and production values, so it's hard to flog. Our greatest challenge is to ensure we come up with a campaign which gets people into cinemas to see it."

On the British scene, Yates does recognise a "new buoyancy", but reckons that "we need to develop our screenwriting base". He also voices the common concern that while Brits have always been best at television, they are still working to a small-screen aesthetic. "I think we need to be more playful with the medium, make films with a broader canvas. I also think the people who commission and fund films in this country need to be more creative in the way they perceive the market. To buck the trend, instead of trying to make another *Four Weddings*, or another *Full Monty*."

Like *The Tichborne Claimant*, Sandra Goldbacher's good-looking



first feature, *The Governess*, offers a subversive slant on Britishness, with its story of a young Jewish woman in Victorian Britain who masquerades as a gentle to get a job as a governess. The film has done brisk business in the States, and the crowd-pulling presence of Minnie Driver in the lead should ensure further success. Harriet Walter, who plays Driver's insipid employer in

the film, sees it as a prime example of original, authentic storytelling.

"Without being nationalistic, I think the important thing is to tell the stories of your culture. I love seeing a British film that tells a universal recognisable story but remains intrinsically British. So I get depressed when I see imitation Tarantinos. I think we should be true to our own experience and our own

with Clinton and Zippergate. When it comes to talking about national identity, we believe our own stereotypes."

Two films that escape scenic clichés to explore a very different physical and psychological "British" landscape are Genevieve Jolliffe's *Urban Ghost Story* and Michael Winterbottom's *I Want You*. Set on a grim, high-rise estate in Glasgow, Jolliffe's film filters kitchen sink social realism through horror films such as *The Exorcist* and *The Exorcist II*. *I Want You*, meanwhile, is a ravishing reworking of the British seaside noir. Using sensuous, colour-saturated images to enchant and estrange the viewer, Winterbottom locates his small-town thriller in a world that feels at once familiar and disturbingly foreign.

Whether discovering new settings or reimagining old ones, whether debunking historical myths or contemporary stereotypes, these movies seem evidence of a refreshingly diverse and ambitious definition of Britishness and "British cinema". But the bottom line is that the British renaissance will burn out unless these new films make money.

Jason Connery, who stars in *Urban Ghost Story*, argues that the greatest problem facing British cinema is its lack of a centralised, commercial base. "A lot of people pooch-pooch the American studio system," he says, "but it creates the environment to make films, and then that money is reinvested. It's all very well to say you want to make edgy, little independent films that 17 people see, but you also need to make blockbusters."

Paradoxically, the British film industry's lack of a profit-hungry studio system continues to be one of its strengths. Compare the inventive, low-budget *Tichborne Claimant* with the Hollywood-sponsored retro-folly that is *The Avengers* and you begin to get an idea of what today's grass-roots production boom is all about. With funding and confidence running high, it is an environment in which talented, first-time filmmakers have a far greater chance of getting their movies made.

*'The Tichborne Claimant'* (Wed 26, Cameo 1), *'Urban Ghost Story'* (Wed 26, GFT; Fri 28 FIE), *'I Want You'* (Thu 27 Cam 2), *'Bedrooms and Hallways'* (Thu 27, Cam 1), *'The Governess'* (Fri 28, Cam 1)

## An epic need for intimacy

**THEATRE**  
THE LOOKALIKES  
KING'S THEATRE

I EXPECT those who sit sternly in judgement of contemporary English theatre have the German writer - sorry, "dramaturge" - Rolf Strauß, and director Peter Stein in mind when they pooch-pooch our homegrown playwrights for their middlebrow ambitions.

Performed in its original German with English subtitles and weighing in at an epic three-and-a-half hours, *The Lookalikes* on these terms alone is demanding. It is broken into six superficially unconnected mini-dramas. In the title piece, two brothers thrown together by reunification plan to build a theme park of German myth and legend, wrangling all the while over a prostitute the pair of them regularly visit. In "Beginning and End", a woman about to commit suicide on an Alpine peak rails against a potential rescuer even as she coerces him into what she sees is the inevitable conclusion of their encounter - her rape at his hands.

Though the human drama of these tales is undeniable, Strauß appears to be aiming at larger, mythical conflicts altogether less apparent. This immancence rings a little hollow.

Where Strauß does seem to hit his nebulous target - that contemporary society suffers from its increasing homogeneity - is in its more intimate moments. At one point a dysfunctional mother comments that "the centre of the world lies where error is at its most dense". In another, two parents exchange psychobabble with one another while their horrifically mutilated daughter threatens to take them to court for ever allowing her to be born. Or, in a scene which elicits the evening's first unself-conscious laughter, a man and a woman debate a situation in which the man finds himself attracted and repelled by his lover in exactly equal proportions.

This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

MIKE HIGGINS

## Naked concealment

"YOU COULD say this was a Post-Modern item of clothing," Ursula Martinez says, touting a T-shirt on which is printed an image of herself, her father and mother all absolutely starkers. "You're clothing yourself in nakedness." You could also say that *A Family Outing* is a Post-Modern item of theatre. Like some philosophical riddle, it generates layers of concealment through acts of seemingly intimate disclosure.

Every night, Martinez plonks mum (62-year-old Milla) and Dad (75-year-old Arthur) onto a sofa next to her for a spot of "aversion therapy" - their particular aversion being lifelong embarrassment at their behaviour. And to "reveal family relationships as they really

**THEATRE**  
A FAMILY OUTING  
ASSEMBLY ROOMS

are". There they sit, like bemused chat show guests, while she attempts with supreme nonchalance to extract some home truths, utilising cutely customised pop cultural forays such as *Mr and Mrs and Stars in their Eyes*.

They open up, divulging the trivial and the telling detail: Arthur had no idea that Milla drank goats' milk; they married, he insists, because "we were both at a loose end". But a few references to a script are sufficient to warn the audience off taking every aside

or bout of hickering at face value.

By the time Arthur has produced his text to find out what his response to his daughter's lesbianism should be, the point has been made that most families wouldn't share their true feelings about each other even under torture. You have to admire Martinez's inspired theatrical conceit - directed by Mark Whitham, who is probably a genius - but the chances are, you'll be too busy wondering at the chutzpah of the old timers, which only just stops short of stripping completely.

Until 5 Sep. Tickets £8 (0131-226 3428)

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

## Van really is the Mann

WHAT IS a festival for, if not to do things normally impossible, such as bringing together works that will gain from juxtaposition? At Edinburgh this year that includes assembling three Dutch dance companies and 13 ballets created over 34 years to show the style and achievement of Europe's senior choreographer: Hans van Mann.

The Dutch National Ballet, in sparkling form, led off with four works ranging from the oldest to one of the newest. *Metaphors* may be 33 years old but came over as fresher and more original than anything our present choreographers can offer. All its dances are based on mirror images, echoes or visual rymes, yet they never look contrived.

**DANCE**

DUTCH NATIONAL BALLET  
PLAYHOUSE

Van Mann's bold originality has not deserted him. It is apparent in the latest work on this programme, *Three Pieces for Het*, premiered only last year, where he stands expectations on their head by starting big in a strong ensemble for two men, six women and then drops to a cast of two, but accelerating the impetus of invention in their break-neck solos before letting that same couple complete the pattern in a slow dying fall, an extraordinarily moving effect.

The middle period (*Trois Gnossis-*

mes) is a small, quirky duet, a duet that matches the elegance and eccentricity of Satie's piano music (played on stage with the instrument pushed around to slow the chase of the dancers). Using a big man and tiny woman allows him to move her in unexpected, amusing lifts; and at the end it gives an illusion that she floats right up and away out of sight.

A fine Dutch tango sextet, Canyengue, play Astor Piazzolla's music for 5 tangos, the programme's most familiar work, where the men of the ballet show brilliantly in their brooding obsessive power, while the women develop a quiet, self-contained response; excellent dancing in outstanding choreography.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## FESTIVAL EYE

Enter the Fringe's answer to Woody Allen, David Tabatsky, an American comedian whose show at Caleders' Gilded Balloon II Upstairs, *True Stories & Other Bullshit*, has just started its eight-day run. Not only is Tabatsky a diminutive Jewish stand-up from New York, he's also the husband of Ute Lemper, the blond goddess in the recent revival of *Chicago*. In another Allenesque quirk, Tabatsky honed his act by touring extensively in, of all places, Germany, where apparently he went down a storm. Obviously a cosmopolitan man.

## TICKET OFFERS

Take today's Independent to one of the venues below:

**The Pleasance (venue 33):** 5.55-6.45 pm: 5 free pairs of tickets for the first 5 people at the Box Office to see Universal Grinding Wheel's *I don't know if you're familiar with the voodoo phenomenon of zombie, but...*

**Caleders' Gilded Balloon at the Honeycomb (venue 139):** 5-6.15pm: 10 free pairs of tickets for the first 10 people at the Box Office to see *The Empire Strikes Back*. Marcus Powell of BBC's *The A Force* meets one of Hackney's New Acts Of The Year, Jocelyn G.

**Caleders' Gilded Balloon Wee Room (venue 36):** 11.30pm-12.30am: 5 free pairs of tickets for the first five people at the Box Office to see *Late Laughs*. Comics Joe Heenan and Janey Godley.

**BITE:98**  
THE NINAGAWA COMPANY  
**HAMLET**  
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
A CLASSIC RETOLD WITH EXQUISITE VISUAL STYLE BY THE CELEBRATED MAGICIAN OF JAPANESE THEATRE - NINAGAWA  
Barbican Theatre  
28 August - 3 September  
Barbican Centre  
Box Office 0171 638 8891 10am-7pm daily

**DAY PLANNER**  
YOUR HOUR-BY-HOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S BEST AT THE FESTIVAL AND FRINGE

<p><b>11 AM</b></p> <p><b>THEATRE</b> 11.30-12.15 <i>Play Wisty for Me: The Life of Peter Cook</i>. Few people could speak with the voice of EL Wisty as surely as Matthew Perret in this two-man show about Cook's life and work. It never outstays its welcome and individual gags are hilarious. <i>Pleasance Below</i>, to 31 Aug. £5-£6 (£4-£5)</p> <p><b>12 NOON</b></p> <p><b>THEATRE</b> 12.30-2.00 Richard III. Malachai Bogdanov's toddler version of the Shakespeare play may rob the characters of their full range, but the cast achieve the fusion of kindergarten and courtly intrigue with aplomb. <i>Pleasance, Venue 33</i>, today and tomorrow. £8 (£6).</p>	<p><b>4PM</b></p> <p><b>THEATRE</b> 4.35-5.35 <i>Tamogochi Heaven</i>. Adults-only tragicomic tale of a woman and her cyberpet. <i>Pleasance (venue 33)</i>, 30 <i>The Pleasance</i> (556 6550). Price £8.50 (£5.50). Until 31 Aug.</p> <p><b>COMEDY</b> 4.30-5.50 <i>Peepolykus - Horses for Courses</i>. Surreal comedy thriller. <i>Pleasance (venue 33)</i>, 30 <i>The Pleasance</i> (536 6550). Price £7 (£6). Until 31 Aug.</p> <p><b>7PM</b></p> <p><b>DANCE</b> 7.20-10.30 <i>Destino Tango</i>. With Dutch maestros Sexteto Can-yengue and dancers Club Tango 5. <i>Graffiti</i>, corner of Broughton and East Lo-</p>	<p><b>9PM</b></p> <p><b>COMEDY</b> 9.00-10.00 Jason Byrne. Frenetic and lunatic humour from one of this year's serious Perrier contenders. The king of off-the-cuff, he takes look-at-me petulance to an art form. His first solo Edinburgh show. <i>Pleasance (venue 33)</i>. Price £7.50 (£5.50). Until 31 Aug.</p> <p><b>COMEDY</b> 9.25-10.25 Al Murray: the Pub Landlord. Keeper of the Pint Cosmic. Cruelly denied the Perrier Award on two previous occasions, Murray returns for a third stint behind the bar with his acute observations on just what it means to be male</p>	<p>and British. Not to be missed. <i>Pleasance (venue 33)</i>. Price £8.50 (£7.50). Until 31 Aug.</p> <p><b>COMEDY</b> 9.45-10.45 Junior Simpson. More up-to-the minute material from the popular stand-up who dares to tackle issues such as the fiasco surrounding the Stephen Lawrence trial. <i>Assembly Rooms</i>, to 30 Aug. £9-£10 (£8-£9)</p> <p><b>10PM</b></p> <p><b>COMEDY</b> 10.15-11.15 <i>The League Against Tedium</i>. Simon Munnelly's megalomaniacal creation - an antidote to middle-of-the-road comedy blues and an outside bet for this year's Perrier Award. <i>Pleasance Above (venue 33)</i>. Price £8-£9 (£7-£8). Until 31 Aug.</p>
---	---	--	---

Peepolykus, 4.50pm  
don Streets. Price £8.50 (£7.50). To 31 Aug

**8PM**

**DANCE**  
8.15-9.30 Cool Beat. Urban Heat. One of the most exciting American dance shows of



AL '98  
g?  
An ep  
need to  
intima

THE TUESDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 26 August 1998

THEATRE/15

# The clockwork wordplay whose time has come

Samuel Beckett's bizarre, explicit monologue *All Strange Away* has been buried for years. But then he never knew what to do with it himself. By Dominic Cavendish

When they declared their intention to stage a work by Samuel Beckett called *All Strange Away*, Nigel Roper and Mark Stuart Currie were met either with blank looks or raised eyebrows. Beckett's theatre agents, Curtis Brown, were stumped by their request for the rights to perform it, as they had never heard of it. Everett Frost, at the Beckett International Foundation, who had heard of it, told them that they were probably insane.

Insane is not the kind of barb that would deter a company called Asylum. The pair persisted and the resulting premiere of a text written in 1964 has been one of the resounding triumphs of the Fringe Festival. The case for *All Strange Away* as a piece of theatre has now been forcefully made. It may not quite be up there with Beckett's most celebrated monologues - *Krapp's Last Tape*, say, or *Rockaby* - but, judging by the approval with which it has been

light. No visible source, glare at full, spread all over, no shadow, all six planes shining the same, slow on, ten seconds on earth to full, same off, try that." Imagine page after page of that.

But when the same words are uttered in a monotone lurch by Mark Stuart Currie, in near-darkness, eyes closed, an anonymous, young man in a suit, crouched absurdly in a children's sandpit, the effect is thrilling. Through the pitter-patter of puns and adjectives, we catch a disturbing, muted narrative.

And in that narrative, Nigel Roper, the director, believes, may lie the reason why Beckett played down *All Strange Away*. "I just don't think he put it in a drawer and forgot about it," he says.

For one thing, there is sexually explicit language, which would still have caused him problems in those days. More importantly, there's a recurrent image of a woman in the text, who matches descriptions of the woman he fell passionately in love with at university, Edna MacCarthy.

concentration is a mechanism against appalling absence.

The whole thing could be described as a process of relentless scene-setting, building towards a vanishing point where all that remains is a faint memory of lying, side-by-side.

It required a bold leap of faith, however, to believe that this could hold an audience for 50 minutes. Roper chanced across the text in a rare American edition of Beckett plays in Reading University library, earlier this year. "It was the most unusual and compulsive monologue that I'd ever read. I assumed that it had been done countless times before and that it was a gap in my knowledge. I was stunned to discover that, apart from a performance at La Mama Theatre in New York in 1964, no one had done it. How to do it right, though, that was the question."

There were none of Beckett's notoriously precise stage directions. On one hand, this was something of a blessing: the Beckett estate is a fearsome guard of the playwright's intentions (as Deborah Warner discovered to her cost when it blocked a tour of her split-level *Footfalls*).

On the other, they were anxious to respect the spirit of the piece. "The first thing we did in rehearsals was to show and tell everything in the text," Roper explains. "We even played it for laughs. Then we began discarding anything that didn't work, simplifying and centralising everything. The desire at each stage was to do less, to a point where almost nothing happens and yet something happens."

Edward Petherbridge, currently performing his acclaimed RSC version of *Krapp's Last Tape* (a golden opportunity to compare and contrast the two works), has a similar paradox to describe his portrayal of Beckett's solitary old spool-player: "It's a play in which one is constantly in danger of doing too much, but you can never come away from it confident that you've done enough."

Less is more with Beckett and, not surprisingly, *Asylum*'s minimalist approach has resped dividends. Representatives from the Beckett estate came to see it and gave it the thumbs-up, and four major London venues have expressed a desire to take the show after Edinburgh.

Although this is not the first stage adaptation of a Beckett piece deemed to be prose (actors Jack MacGowan, David Warlow and George Tabori all had a crack, with Beckett's permission), Dr Julian Garforth, of the Beckett International Foundation, believes the success of *All Strange Away* could have a significant impact on future productions of Beckett: "Because this adaptation has been given permission to go ahead and worked, *Asylum* may have set a precedent for other people to ask the estate if they can do different things."

But this kind of adaptation may well pave the way for other interesting prose adaptations. Not that *Asylum* have got their minds too set on the long term: the concern right now is how they're going to dash from the Pleasance to the Assembly Rooms when the performance does overlap this weekend, hugging eight bags of sand. Imagine that.

*All Strange Away*, Pleasance (0131-556 6550) to 31 August, and concurrently at the Assembly Rooms; *Krapp's Last Tape*, Assembly Rooms (0131-226 2828) to 5 September; quotations from *All Strange Away* by kind permission of Calder Publications (0171-533 6599)



greeted, it's clear that the critical re-evaluation has only just begun.

You can see why *All Strange Away* might have lain in obscurity for so long. It remained unpublished for over 10 years, the author himself not seeming to know what to do with it. In his massive biography of the writer, *Damned to Fame*, James Knowlson briefly mentions that Beckett was working in French and English on a new prose text that, for a long time, refused to assume any sort of satisfactory shape. The eventual outcome was an over-complex text in English.

Certainly, on the page, *All Strange Away* is an arduous business: it reads like a bundle of fastidious, syntax-free notes: a steady stream of hypothetical assemblings and dismantlings, in which every imaginative step is measured with deadly mathematical accuracy - a kind of clockwork wordplay, where the clock hand keeps jumping back.

Take these lines, for example: "Imagine

It was a relationship that was never consummated. *All Strange Away* was written five years after her death, but her husband was still alive. Beckett had been previously embarrassed when people pointed out certain connections between his life and his early work, and had resolved never to let that happen again.

In the piece, the speaker fixates on a woman called Edna, picturing her as a passive, almost lifeless, object within a space as inhospitable as a mausoleum. His anatomisation of her is clinical, surgical and explicit ("Fancy her being all kissed, licked, sucked, fucked and so on by all that, no sound"). When Currie's eyes open, they suggest the deadness, not of a psychopath, but of someone worn out by grief and loss.

As he tenderly manipulates a small doll into various positions, like some autistic puppeteer ("Edna lying on her left side, arse to knees along diagonal db with arse towards d and knees towards h though neither at either"), we sense that his absolute



Mark Stuart Currie in 'All Strange Away' (above) and Edward Petherbridge in 'Krapp's Last Tape' (above left): a golden opportunity to compare and contrast Geraint Lewis

## Too much of the bard, no matter how much you like it

THE BATH Shakespeare Festival offers anyone who likes their Bard in seven-hour megadoses the opportunity to see the English Shakespeare Company's latest offerings performed back-to-back. But only those with buttocks of steel and the kind of upbringing where one had to eat one's cabbage in order to get one's ice-cream should avail themselves of this offer. Despite dramaturge Ros King's attempt in the programme notes to find some parallels between the two plays, their presentation together goes mainly to highlight the fact that even Shakespeare had his off-days, with the sweeping grandeur of *Antony and Cleopatra* standing head and shoulders above the feeble complications of *As You Like It*.

Both directed by Michael Bogdanov, leading exponent of "bringing Shakespeare to the people", the productions are uncompromisingly contemporary in their approach. They both feature the same compa-

ny of 14 actors, and utilise the by now customary mixture of stripped down sets and modern day dress. No one has yet managed to satisfactorily explain why Kalashnikov-toting soldiers should carry swords, though.

Unfortunately, the limitations of the sets in both plays remove the opportunity to envelop Egypt in the rich stench of incense and decadence - the very aspect which so delights and repels the Roman visitors - or engender the similar intoxication of the mystical Forest of Arden. Yannis Tzavris's set for *As You Like It* consists of three mobile chrome and smoked glass towers fitted with venetian blinds. The cool clinicality of this stylistic minimalism leaves the Forest a stark and sterile place, lacking the magical and transformative strangeness and fecundity which might explain the explosion of love and lust which occurs within it. The staging and costuming of the Forest scenes are more Grapes of *Wrath* than *Robin Hood*, which does

at least allow Bogdanov to transform the endless songs littering the play into foot-tapping guitar and harmonica blues numbers.

Meanwhile, back in Egypt, Geraldine Buzzi's inspiration appears to come - appropriately enough - from the Memphis School, with a sleek Docklands concoction of green marble and obelisks (domestic size) reminiscent of the atrium of a transnational investment bank. A not inappropriate image, since Tim Woodward's Antony is a middle-aged man at the peak of his career, revelling - like any successful plutocrat in the bar of the Waldorf Astoria - in the power which has accrued to him and the beauty of the lustful career girl on his arm.

In this Battle of the Suda, Octavius (David Shelley) is the Bill Gates of antiquity; the unlikely young geek sweeping all before him. Woodward also makes a solid impression in *As You Like It*, playing wandering courtier Jacques as the mackintosh

AS YOU LIKE IT, ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA. THEATRE ROYAL, BATH

and trilby-clad Irishman who can be found propped in the corner of many a pub, dispensing misanthropy and philosophy over a glass of whisky. In this persona, Jacques' world-weariness and omnipresence become considerably less contrived.

Meanwhile, back in Egypt (again), Cathy Tyson seizes the role of Cleopatra and plays it at full strength. This is no vapid, droopy, expiring tag-end of a royal line, drowning in the decadence of excess. She is also far from the laugid animal that one might expect from Tyson. This is a woman who combines regality with playfulness: a practical-joking, hard-drinking success in her own right who can run the gamut of emotion from lust to fear and then run a country in conflict with her personal desires. In

Timothy's Cleopatra, one can clearly see the conflict between the head that wears the crown of Egypt and the heart that loves Mark Antony.

One benefit of using a small cast to perform both plays is that it allows truly talented actors to reveal their strengths even when covering a handful of smaller roles. In this regard, John Labanowski and David Mara stand out. Labanowski's Antony can be delivered not as an old and valued relic but as drama fresh from the pen. When Labanowski's Antony, Enochian, describes "The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne", it could be a segment taken from tomorrow's *From Our Own Correspondent*. His performance as Charles the Wrestler in *As You Like It*, with its clarity and contemporary feel, suggests that he has the potential to give us a Falstaff for the 21st century.

Mara, meanwhile, covers a sweep of roles from rustic Corin to man-of-letters maestro Lepidus with

excellent pacing, versatility and a style which proves that blank verse need not be delivered with the strident emphases and stylised diction so often deployed when "playing the Bard". If one of the ESC's missions is to make Shakespeare appealing to a 1990s audience, then it could do far worse than continue promoting these two fine actors.

Any production which seeks to do new things with old material will, unavoidably feature ideas that don't quite work. As *You Like It* contains a bizarre dream scene in which Orlando becomes a deer killed by Rosalind, and a rap version of "It was a lover and his lass" which, whilst amusing, is startlingly incongruous. Contemprorisation is fine if it abides by the rules of its own internal logic.

Both plays also feature set pieces which go on too long, breaking the rhythm of the performance: the wrestling contest in *As You Like It* and Pompey's dance feast in *Antony and Cleopatra*. There are also

enjoyable touches, such as the prologue to the latter in which breathless journalists provide the historical background for those lacking a classical education.

Overall, these plays are solid presentations of familiar scripts. That they do little to advance the contemporary interpretation of Shakespeare, and represent merely a consolidation of some of the ground-breaking work that has gone before, is probably in their favour in attempting to draw a fresh mass audience to Shakespeare's work. *Antony and Cleopatra* is a play which will appeal as much today as any television drama. And any suggestion that *As You Like It* is worth avoiding is probably just the crabbings of a critic who has sat too long in a theatre wishing he was watching one of Shakespeare's better comedies.

Both plays run until 29 August. Box office: (01225) 448844

TOBY O'CONNOR MORSE



# Babies need lots of love and financial investment

It's never too early to start planning for your baby's future.

By Andrew Couchman

THE BIRTH or adoption of a first child is an event that every parent looks forward to with both excitement and fear. New parents take on the frightening responsibility for the life of a helpless human being. That is balanced, though, by moments of great joy such as his or her first step, word or smile.

In the event, bringing up children is all too often much harder work than we expect. Yet few parents would have it any other way.

The one exception to that rule is when it comes to finance. Many parents start a family when their income is still low, the mortgage is enormous and investment capital is low. Despite that, almost overnight a new set of financial responsibilities has been taken on.

When planning how best to manage the situation, your priority should be protection. Many people will have life cover, usually up to four times their income, as part of their pension, and that route is always the best place to start because premiums can be offset against tax. The downside is that, if you change or lose your job, the life cover goes too.

Derek Brown, of the independent financial advisers Warwick Butchart and Associates, recommends family income benefit for many families.

This provides an annual income in the event of death. In the past, such cover was often written to the child's 18th or 20th birthday. Now, with one in three school leavers going on to further education, a longer term - perhaps to age 25 - is more popular. As the cover is effectively decreasing as you get older, it can be very cheap.

GA Life would charge a 30-year-old man £13.18 a month for £10,000 a year cover, for 25 years. If he died in the first year, the insurer would pay out a total of £250,000. If he died after 10 years the total would have fallen to £150,000.

The need for life cover falls away as children grow up and are no longer so financially dependent, but your surviving partner will still need to live, and estate planning may then be important too. Generally, however, beware of any adviser who argues that you need enough life cover to provide an inflation-linked income in perpetuity. As financial commitments fall away in the future, so does the need for life cover.

How much cover do you need? Four times income is usually a minimum, but the way to calculate it is to work out how much you would need to pay off any capital commitments such as mortgages and loans, then how much income your surviving family would need to live on, and for how long.

Even if one parent is not working, consider life cover on both, together with critical illness, to give a lump sum on suffering a life-threatening illness, and income protection, to get a monthly income, in the event of long-term illness or disability.

Many critical illness plans now include free cover for dependent children up to £15,000, or half the sum assured if less.

Savings are particularly important for a child's future education. At



Make sure you have the right plans and policies to ensure your family will be financially secure

Nicola Kurtz

one time, only school fees planning was considered. Now, the need for university tuition fees means that many students may end up in debt.

Building up savings for them can help minimise the size of their eventual debt. Often, grandparents and other relatives also welcome the opportunity to help youngsters save for the future, especially if the money is to be used for education.

Private school fees cost, on average, around £4,000 a year for boarders, and £1,700 for day pupils, and planning to pay those fees is best started before the child is born, in order to give the longest possible time for the investment to build up.

Many parents start to think seri-

ously about it only when their offspring already have a name down at a first school. Generally, if there is less than five years to go, invest as much as you can afford into deposit savings. In the longer term, Tassas, Pepe and unit trust savings plans are likely to prove better. Endowment assurance-linked schemes may give advantages to higher-rate taxpayers, but often with a lack of flexibility.

Fiona Price, of Fiona Price and Partners, independent financial advisers in London, warns against prepackaged school fees investments. "The problem with many packages," she says, "is that they can prove to be inflexible and quite expensive. It is usually best to

choose from what's available in the market. That way it will meet your needs, and you can get best value for your money."

Some independent schools run charitable trusts, which can give income tax benefits, but these are best considered only if the child will definitely attend that school. "If you are considering school fees planning, make sure you have sufficient protection cover too," Fiona Price warns. "Many parents often overlook the fact that if they are no longer alive there may be no one to continue paying the school fees."

When children are small, parents often have to face sacrifices as well as get accustomed to a new way of

life. With careful planning, however, they can do so with the peace of mind that comes with knowing that the family is protected against the worst eventualities, while savings are also being built up to help the children out as they get older.

Fiona Price & Partners: 0171-430 0366. Warwick Butchart & Associates: 01242 237155. General Accident Life: 0500 100 200. For a list of independent financial advisers near you, call IFA Portfolio on 0177 971 1177.

Andrew Couchman is the publishing editor of "Health Insurance Report".

## Accountants who cheat leaseholders

If service charges are not properly submitted, complain. The law is on your side. By Karen Woolfson

THE INSTITUTE of Chartered Accountants (ICA) is clamping down on members who fail to produce service charge accounts that comply with landlord and tenant legislation and has recently launched a number of investigations. The ICA is using its powers to fine members and is prepared, in the most serious cases, to strip them of the ability to work as "chartered" accountants.

Victor Boorman & Co, Sussex-based accountants, have just been fined £1,000 plus costs following the investigation of a complaint to the ICA. It was found that the summaries of service charge costs produced over three years for eight blocks of leasehold flats along the south coast did not comply with Section 21(5) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985.

This is a serious breach of the law. Leaseholders must be given a clear breakdown of the service charges, so that they can see how their money is spent. The flats in question are owned by Anthony John Scrivens, a landlord who has inadvertently motivated hundreds of leaseholders to unite along the south coast.

Danny McEvoy, a leaseholder living in Siltwood Gate, one of the blocks involved in the investigation, comments: "The Institute of Chartered Accountants decision to fine Boorman & Co is good news. Failure to comply with Section 21(5) is just one more thing we have found some accountants, managers and freeholders are doing to mislead leaseholders. The present system has to go."

Many leaseholders are in a similar predicament. If you are one of them, then it is worth reading Section 21 of the Landlord & Tenant Act to see exactly what your rights are and how the service charge accounts should be presented. The tenancy relations department of local authorities are good starting-points, as are the Coalition for the Abolition of Residential Leaseholds, and the Leasehold Advisory Service.

You have the right to receive a written summary of the costs relevant to the service charges payable. Flat-owners represented by a recognised tenants' association can ask the secretary to request this. The landlord must then comply with your request within one month, or six months of the end of the accounting period covered by the summary.

The details provided must state whether any of the costs relate to works in respect of which a grant has been or is to be paid under Section 523 of the Housing Act 1985. It must also show how the costs are reflected in demands for service charges. There are other requirements too, for which some accountants are currently being investigated.

Summaries must be provided of costs for which: ● No demand for payment was received by the landlord within the period in question. ● A demand for payment was received but no payment was made by the landlord within the period. ● A demand for payment was received and payment was made within this period.

These items are crucial to making service charge accounts transparent, so that leaseholders can form a true picture of how their money is being spent.

If there are more than four flat-owners in the block then the summary must be certified by a qualified accountant who is wholly independent and therefore must not be a leaseholder on the premises or an officer, partner, agent or

*The ICA is using its powers to fine members and - in the most serious cases - to strip them of their 'chartered' status*

employee of the landlord. He or she must be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Association of Certified Accounts or another body recognised by the Secretary of State.

If your service charge accounts do not comply with the legislation, write a short letter of complaint giving clear points of actual data to the ICA and they will carry out an investigation. If the accountant is not a member of the ICA, he or she may belong to the Scottish equivalent or another accountancy body and the ICA should be able to point you in the right direction.

The future looks promising. The possibility of introducing a regulator for accountants, managing agents, freeholders and anyone else involved in property management is currently being explored by the Government. This could be brought under the wing of the personal investment authority along with financial advisers: after all, property is one of the biggest investments, yet to date it has escaped the might of a Government regulator.

You are welcome to write to Karen Woolfson, Homebattles, c/o Nick Cicutt, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Karen regrets she is unable to reply personally to all letters.

ICA: 01908 248100. Carl PO Box 3076, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5BT. Leas: 0171-493 3116 for details of your local council's Tenancy Relations Officer

## Make friends with a nice little earner

Friendly societies can now compete with the big boys. By Simon Read

FEP managers and Tessa providers are counting down the days until April 1999, when their products may no longer be sold and will be replaced by new-style Individual Savings Accounts. For the UK's friendly societies, however, the new ISA accounts will represent an additional opportunity.

The Chancellor has announced that friendly societies will be able to offer ISAs, in addition to their existing tax-free 10-year savings plans. It effectively means that they will be able to compete on more or less level terms with the big institutions when it comes to attracting savers.

However, the chances of friendly societies spending massive amounts on advertising new ISAs is slim. In reality, they are likely to continue offering their members a range of

products with few frills or costs. At the heart of the friendly society deal is the 10-year savings plan. These accounts can offer tax-free savings because they contain an element of life assurance. "Friendly societies provide a nicely packaged savings product which grows tax-free," says Barry Chambers, marketing director at Family Assurance, one of the leading societies. "A lot of people earmark the cash for a particular event, such as wedding anniversary celebrations, or just some cash for children or university costs."

The Government is keen to encourage people to have adequate life assurance and that's why the plans are granted tax-free status. However, the life as-

surance element of the plan is pretty small and the accounts are generally sold as savings schemes.

The maximum monthly amount you can put into a friendly society 10-year savings plan is £25, or savers can invest up to £270 a year. To get the full tax-free status, the plans must be maintained for 10 years - cashing in early could mean a tax liability or the return of less than you've paid in.

Worse, if the plan is closed before 12 monthly payments have been made, there will be no return of cash at all. This is because of the life assurance element. Payments in the early years predominantly go towards paying those charges. However, some of the cash

will also be invested on your behalf to ensure a pay-out after 10 years.

The investment is managed in much the same way as any other - by professional fund managers who use their expertise to get maximum returns. In essence, the plans work in exactly the same way as endowment policies where some of the premiums pay for the life cover, and the rest is invested on your behalf.

Returns on the friendly society plans will be hit by the cost of life cover and expenses and charges, although friendly societies - stung by criticism about the size of charges - have been working hard to reduce costs as much as possible. But an illustration from Home-

owners Friendly Society shows that someone investing the maximum amount each month - 3,000 over 10 years - would pay £598 in deductions, producing a real effect of a £970 deduction from their fund. These deductions would bring investment growth of 9 per cent down to just 4.7 per cent a year.

But not using a friendly society savings plan means losing out on the tax benefits. IFA Promotion, a marketing body promoting independent financial advice, calculates that people already saving with an endowment policy are wasting £50m a year in tax by not saving in a friendly society.

"Too many people overlook friendly societies when planning their savings and invest-

ments," says David White, head of sales and marketing at Tunbridge Wells Equitable. "As far as using their tax-free premium allowances is concerned, my advice is use it or lose it."

There are, in fact, hundreds of friendly societies around the country, but only a few offer products to the general public. Most restrict themselves to providing a range of benefits for their members. The largest national friendly society is Liverpool Victoria.

Looking ahead, the societies would like to see an increase in the amount of cash people can save in their 10-year plans. "We would like to see the Chancellor increase the limit," says Barry Chambers. "The accounts are already attractive to those who like having to save regularly. An increased limit would improve the attraction."

FREE GUIDE

## CONFUSED BY ISAs?

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR EASY-TO-USE GUIDE ON THE NEW INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

0800 20 40 20  
SAVE & PROSPER

www.prosper.co.uk

Save & Prosper Group Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IFA. 2076/001

2076/001



Private health care can provide peace of mind – at a price. How can you get the best deal for you and your family? By Nic Cicutti

# Perils of your private medical cover

Imagine having to spend a few days in hospital for a non-essential operation to remedy a minor medical problem. How nice it would be to select an operation date, the hospital, and even the surgeon of your choice.

The ability to do this is in sharp contrast to the often lengthy wait when receiving the same treatment through the NHS. For up to 6 million people, this is an option available to them thanks to the private medical insurance (PMI) they are covered under.

PMI is not cheap, however, and this is, perhaps, why the vast majority of those with cover have it courtesy of their employers, who usually operate group-wide schemes. Which is fine, as long as you are working for a firm that is prepared to pay the premiums. But what happens if you join a firm where cover is not one of the perks on offer, or if you have just retired?

"It can be quite a blow to find out how much PMI cover really costs," says Steve Walker, proprietor of Medical Insurance Services, a firm specialising in this field. "Many people may have seen it as a £300-a-year employer's perk, and assume that is all it will cost them. They then discover that to maintain the same level of cover for themselves and their wives could cost them up to £1,000 a year each."

Peter Bye, a partner at the Private Health Partnership, another specialist adviser, adds: "It used to be the case that many firms would offer continuing cover to people who had retired. But a few years ago, most companies decided they simply couldn't afford it."

"It's one thing to offer PMI to employees in a firm where the average age is 32 and group premiums reflect that fact, quite another to pay for someone who is at an age where they are likely to be making the most claims. Most companies would now

say that their responsibility ends when that person leaves their employment."

The problem of finding affordable but comprehensive cover is compounded by a combination of factors. One of them is inflation in the cost

"health investors" who are determined to recoup rather more than their cover has cost them, with this in turn leading to a process of "selective" self-insurance.

The other main factor is age-related: as people get older, they are

more likely to need medical care. Therefore their premiums are likely to rise. Eventually, premiums become unaffordable for many. Peter Bye adds: "One of the reasons for this seepage of people away from PMI recently has been because of the Government's decision to scrap tax relief on premiums in the Budget last year."

So what happens if somebody wants to retain cover after leaving retired or have joined another firm. This is usually done as soon as the person leaves that employment. Of course, that's when people discover just how much it will cost them each month to obtain the same level of cover.

It can make sense – despite the higher premiums and the sense of being held hostage by your existing provider – to go for that option, if only because looking for another insurer

can leave a person who has made use of PMI in the past without cover for "pre-existing" conditions. Often, the premiums are cheaper, too.

A danger of shopping around for a cheaper insurer, one that sometimes applies to the former, employer-provided one, is that prospective policy-holders may be required to undergo new underwriting tests if they wish to pay for cover themselves. This could mean either that premiums rise to reflect factors such as age, or that insurers are unwilling to offer cover for pre-existing conditions.

In any event, exclusions are standard among insurers, the main ones being treatment for chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes, dental treatment, cover for normal pregnancy, and any treatment for alcohol or other drug dependency.

The alternative is to opt for "moratorium cover", where a person will not receive payment for treatment for a set period of time,

usually between two and five years after taking out the insurance policy. The advantage of this is that you will not be forced into a time-consuming and potentially even more problematical medical examination, with all the accompanying risks of discovering a previously-unknown medical condition.

It is important to note, however, that in a recent report the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) attacked "moratorium cover" for potentially putting people off seeing their doctors about their medical problems for fear of losing their cover.

In addition, the OFT said, even if policy-holders held off having treatment for two years, the wording on some policies was so confusing that they were being refused payment for private medical treatment without its being made clear in the policy's small print that this might happen.

NIC CICUTTI  
PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

*Many firms used to offer continued medical cover to employees who retired, but most companies have now decided they can't afford it*

of medical equipment and treatment: on average, premiums have risen by 10 to 15 per cent a year, some 6 to 12 per cent a year above the retail price index. The industry is in a costs and claims spiral, partly because, as in the NHS, medical costs have risen with the advent of new techniques.

But the main factor appears to be an increase in claims, with insurers facing what some describe as

more likely to need medical care. Therefore their premiums are likely to rise. Eventually, premiums become unaffordable for many. Peter Bye adds: "One of the reasons for this seepage of people away from PMI recently has been because of the Government's decision to scrap tax relief on premiums in the Budget last year."

So what happens if somebody wants to retain cover after leaving

## How to keep you and your bank account in the pink

HOW CAN you reduce the cost of medical cover? Insurers are keen to find ways to do that. Robin Payne, the general manager for business development at Exeter Friendly Society, says: "One idea that we are discussing, although it's not at the final stage yet, is for people to anticipate the higher cost of cover in old age by making some kind of "reservation" on a policy. That way, they can obtain affordable cover."

One way is to reduce the level of cover required. For example, Exeter's Preferred Plan offers £100 a night for people who stay in an NHS hospital. All outpatient treatment is paid for. Cover for a couple aged 59

er Standard Life, explains: "We operate a system whereby a person accepting an excess up to a maximum of £250 can cut the annual cost of their policy by up to 25 per cent."

Paying annually instead of monthly also helps: most insurers lop off between 4 and 5 per cent for contributors who pay in this way. Prime Health cuts 7.5 per cent, while WPA cuts up to 11.5 per cent for advance payment.

A less popular way of cutting the bills is to exclude children from the policy. This may be seen as cruel, but most experts agree that kids are in any case the most likely to be treated swiftly by the NHS, even in non-emergency cases.

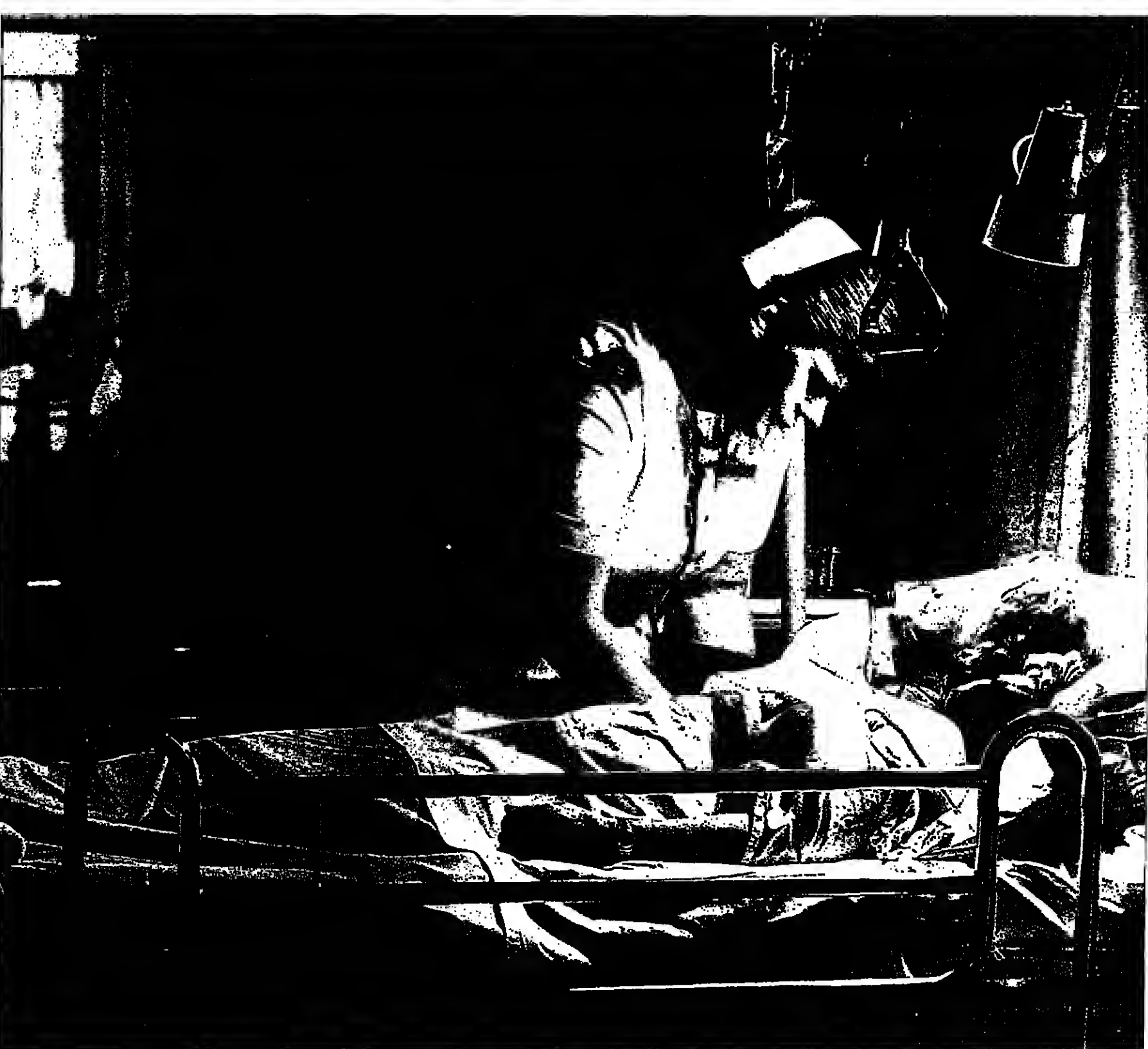
Accepting restrictions on which hospitals are used for treatment can save money. Prime Health gives a 15 per cent discount for those who choose its 95-hospital network option. But increasingly, in a bid to contain premiums, many providers have reduced the freedom to choose hospitals from all but their luxury-style policies.

Companies usually raise premiums at least once a year, on top of further increases made on the basis of age bands. The age band increases differ among the top providers. For Bupa it is every five years; FFP has a small age-related increase every year; while it is every 10 years up to the age of 60 for Prime Health.

One recent entrant to the PMI market, the Dutch company OHRA, is attempting to break this price structure with a product, Medios Executive 2000, which, under its loyalty bonus, makes no age-related premium increases whatsoever.

Both Peter Bye and Steve Walker recommend looking out for policies whose age bands do not disadvantage people as they become older.

"My advice is for clients to think ahead to when they are older. There's no point in paying the cheapest premium now if it rockets



As you get older, and more likely to need health care, the cost of medical insurance can spiral ever upwards

*There's no point in having cheap medical cover if, when you actually have to use it, you have a bad experience claiming it*

and 57 would cost £1,305 a year. By shifting to Exeter's low-cost option, which pays £50 a night for NHS hospital care and does not cover outpatient treatment, the bill reduces to £902 for the couple.

Peter Bye points out, however, that he will always recommend people to opt for outpatient treatment as part of a policy: "It is becoming more and more the case that outpatient treatment is taking the place of overnight stays," he says. In addition, the cost of such treatment can mount up.

Another method is to accept an "excess" on a policy, whereby the first slice of any treatment is paid for by the person receiving it. A spokeswoman at Prime Health, the PMI provider owned by the insur-

up in 10 or 20 years' time," Mr Walker points out.

Peter Bye's own advice to clients is to concentrate on the level of cover needed – most insurers will offer a range of policies to suit different people's pockets – then to

look at price and, finally, at the level of service offered. "There's no point in having cheap cover if the long-term consequence is that, when you need to use it, you have a bad experience in claiming for it," he says.

Steve Walker adds one tip: "Most insurers will place hospitals in certain bands depending on how expensive they are. In London, for example, most hospitals are in band A because they simply cost more, irrespective of the level of

care given there. We had clients who had recently retired from London to the country and they were looking for cheaper cover. They had been paying £5,000 a year for band A treatment in London. I was able to find them an almost identical pol-

icy on a different band for £1,400 a year." With dozens of providers offering a multitude of policies each, it always pays to obtain independent advice as to the most suitable one for your needs.

NIC CICUTTI

## Beware – penalties can shatter your dreams

In the latest of her series on choosing the right mortgage, Rachel Fixsen warns borrowers that the most attractive rates do not always make for the most attractive deals

TAKES OUT a fixed-rate mortgage now and you could be paying less than 1 per cent in interest on your home loan. But what is the catch?

Whether you are borrowing to buy your first home or are remortgaging to save money, you are faced with the choice of fixed-rate, capped-rate or variable-rate deals.

With a fixed-rate mortgage, the rate of interest you pay is set for a pre-determined period, usually up to five years. In a climate of falling interest rates, the fixed rate is likely to be lower than the prevailing variable rate.

"The danger people face is that the fixed rate could become uncompetitive over that time," says Simon Hooper, of Bristol & West. So a capped-rate mortgage can be more attractive. A capped rate is also agreed for a set period, and puts

a ceiling on the rate of interest you will have to pay. If during the period interest rates should fall below the capped rate, the borrower would pay at the lower of the two.

A variable-rate mortgage means you agree to pay interest at the mortgage lender's standard variable rate which generally shadows Bank of England short-term money market interest rates.

Fixed-rate mortgages provide a safe haven for some home buyers. Coping with rising interest rates can be a nightmare. In the two years from 1987 to 1989, average interest payments on a £50,000 mortgage went up by more than £200 a month.

"What it really hinges on is budget," says Patrick Bunton, of mortgage brokers London & Country Mortgages. "Don't try to double-guess the market. If

the mortgage you're taking out is going to account for a large part of your disposable income, then you should fix the rate," he says. Birmingham Midshires offers a rate fixed at 6.49 per cent for 10 years, according to financial data provider Moneyfacts. The deal carries a fee of £295 and stipulates that you must take out the lender's buildings and contents insurance. Fees for fixed- and capped-rate deals are common, but watch out for the other catches. And, most importantly, watch out for redemption penalties. This is where you have to pay the lender a large sum of money – often the

equivalent of six months' interest – if you pay off any extra capital within a pre-set period. The Scarborough Building Society shines in best-buy tables with its fixed-rate deal. You pay 0.99 per cent for a year, but then you have to stick with that lender for a further five years or face hefty redemption penalties.

Whichever fixed- or capped-rate mortgage you go for, you can expect to be tied into the agreement while the period of protected interest rates lasts. But many lenders go further, locking you in for years after the fixed or capped rate has expired. This could leave you at the mercy of their standard variable

rate, however uncompetitive that may prove to be.

"You are almost always better off taking a deal where there is no overhang," says Mr Bunton. If you take out a three-year deal with no lock-in at the end, the lender then has a huge incentive to offer further competitive mortgage terms, he says.

Many people are caught unawares by redemption penalty clauses. While they would expect a discounted rate mortgage to carry an extended lock-in period because it involves an element of subsidy from the lender, they would not expect this to be the case with a straightforward fixed deal. But

very low fixed rates are often, in fact, discounted fixed rates. So are some mortgages mislabelled?

Sue Anderson, of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, says no. But there is a need to make some consumers more aware of conditions before they sign up for a mortgage, she adds.

"If it's a fixed rate that seems cheaper than other fixed rates, then look at the overall package to see if there's a redemption charge," she says. Rory Hegarty, of the National Consumer Council, says that the mortgage market can be a minefield for would-be borrowers.

"It really is very important for consumers to look very carefully at exactly what they are signing up for," he says.

"If a deal that you are considering ties you in after the fixed period, then consider shopping around because you

might just find a better deal."

There are advantages of going for a variable rate deal. It enables you to choose one of the new breed of flexible mortgages that calculate interest daily and allow overpayments and underpayments. And anyway, according to economists' forecasts, interest rates have peaked for now.

"We think rates are going nowhere until next February," says Geoffrey Dicks, the UK economist at Greenwich NatWest. And then the next move will be down, he predicts. By the end of 1999, he forecasts that Bank of England money market rates will have fallen to 6.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent at the moment.

London & Country Mortgages: 01225 40800; Bristol & West: 0117 9792222; Council of Mortgage Lenders: 0171 440 2255



# Banks want your money – so take theirs

Who'd have thought becoming a student could improve your financial situation? By Nic Cicutti

**T**en or fifteen years ago, the relationship between students and their bank could be fraught with difficulties, particularly on the overdraft front. Go more than £100 or so overdrawn and you could almost guarantee a strop from the manager – for which you were then charged.

Today, everything is different. Banks positively fall over themselves to offer students an overdraft, sometimes running into four figures. The reasons for this change are not hard to find. First, student debt is a far more "acceptable" feature of college life. The gradual whittling down in the value of, and now, the outright abolition of student grants has made college-goers far more dependent on state loans to keep going. Banks see themselves as part of that equation.

This is probably just as well. Midland Bank's Degrees of Debt survey earlier this year found that more than half of sixth-formers' greatest concern is money, while 70 per cent expected to borrow during their student days. In reality, Midland points out, 92 per cent will be in debt by their third year.

If anything, owing money is now seen as a sensible thing to do. Jenny Loynds, head of student banking at Barclays, believes: "Students are becoming increasingly realistic about the cost of going to university. The percentage of students owing money has risen from 80 per cent in 1993 to 88 per cent today."

Moreover, banks have discovered that, despite the sometimes mastodontic scale of their overdrafts, harrising a few exceptions most students pay them off as soon as they start work. It may take a year or two, but once in the world of work ex-students will soon be earning

enough to pay off their debts. And a sense of middle-class probity will ensure they do so, even though it may cause hardship for a long time – the average debt is £3,800 and the expected repayment time is five years, according to Midland; £2,960 according to Barclays – after the overdraft was incurred in the first place.

Finally, banks know that if they catch their clients young and cosset them when at their most vulnerable, eventually these same clients will generate a healthy income stream for many decades. Student overdrafts are an investment for the future for both banks and their clients.

So what are banks prepared to offer their teenage customers? Each bank's package differs slightly, although the most common feature is the free overdraft.

NatWest is prepared to offer a £1,000 overdraft in years one to three, with £1,500 in year four and £2,000 in years five and beyond. However, the bank insists this is not automatic, and all limits are assessed on an individual basis and discussed between the student and an adviser.

However, NatWest does not rest there. It also gives those opening one of its student accounts before 30 November a cash gift of £35 (plus a further £15 if the account is opened at one of the bank's "specialist" student branches). Or it will give an BT EasyReach pager, which has no connection fee and on which the student pays nothing for messages.

Midland's package also involves a pre-agreed, interest-free overdraft of £750 in year one, £1,000 in year two, £1,250 in the third year, rising to £1,500 in subsequent years. This is less than NatWest offers, but Midland also gives students a free, four-year Railcard, worth £72, or £50 in cash.

What is more, additional borrowing is 1 per cent over base rate, while its fee-free credit card will charge only 11.9 per cent APR for the first 12 months – subject to a maximum £500 spending limit. Midland claims its Railcard deal can save students hundreds of pounds more on travel, and cites the cost of a return ticket between London and Manchester – £46.50 with a standard saver ticket and £31 with the card – as an example.

Lloyds offers a pre-agreed overdraft of £750 in years one to three, which is potentially extendable to £1,000. Thereafter, the pre-agreed limit is £1,500, with a possible extension to £2,000. All new account openers also receive £35 in cash, plus a further £15 if their parents also bank at Lloyds. Agreed extra borrowing is at a lower rate – 7.4 per cent – than Midland's, and students' fee-free Mastercard charges 16.4 per cent APR for six months, returning to 22.9 per cent APR thereafter.

Barclays Bank's interest-free overdraft package is up to £1,200 in year one, rising to £1,400 in year two, £1,600 in the third year, £1,700 in the fourth and £1,800 in the fifth. Interest on agreed loans above that is charged at 1 per cent over the base rate. Plus, the bank offers free Internet banking 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – this benefits anyone who has access to the Net while they are at college.

Its fee-free Barclaycard is not such good value, charging 18.9 per cent with a limit of £350. But Barclays' piece of resistance is the offer of a Cellnet EasyLife mobile phone worth £119.99. There is no line rental with this phone and incoming calls are free of charge. There is also no disconnection fee. However, calls are charged on a pre-paid basis at 49 pence per minute and at least £320-



Students may have lost the battle over fees, but they can still win the financial war

worth of calls must be credited to the phone every 120 days. (This can be carried over once.) Students receive £20-worth of free calls when they buy their first £20 of call time. The phone also has Voicemail message facilities, charged at 49 pence a minute.

Jenny Loynds at Barclays says: "The whole package is designed to

encourage students to take control of their finances – using technology such as the Internet, the mobile phone as well as our realistic overdraft facilities."

As well as the big banks' success in attracting students, some present and former building societies have done the same. Halifax, in particular, has won student customers by

offering them a £1,000 a year interest-free overdraft for up to six years (one year after graduation), plus agreed overdrafts of 7.9 per cent EAR (Equivalent Annual Rate). Halifax also offers a telephone banking service, commission-free travel money and a cash card.

Despite the attractive packages on offer to students when choosing

their accounts, the fact remains that, for many, the key is not the deal on offer while they are at college but what happens when they leave.

The first few years after studies have ended can be tough, and newly-graduated students need all the help they can get during that period. This is a subject to which we will return next week.

## It's a great sign...



...at least £35 cash or a BT EasyReach Pager  
for opening a Student Account\*

Starting college or university?

We can help with...

A cash gift of at least £35\* for first year students. Those who qualify for our Student Banking Service at selected branches will be eligible for a bonus of £15\*, bringing the grand total to £50. Alternatively, opt for a BT EasyReach Pager to help you stay in touch with friends and family.

More student branches on or near campus than any other bank, and with a network of over 17,000 cash machines we're always close at hand. At all our branches you will find either our specialist Student Banking Service or Student Advisers who can offer guidance to help you manage your finances throughout your course.

They'll also help you work out the right overdraft to see you through the term, with the arranged amount completely interest-free\* up to the maximum level for your year of study.

With all this on offer, plus much, much more, it's no wonder so many students choose NatWest.

To apply or for more information  
pop into any branch or

call 0800 200 400

Monday to Friday 8.00am - 8.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am - 6.00pm

**NatWest**  
More than just a bank

Internet address: [www.natwest.co.uk](http://www.natwest.co.uk)

Ref.No: 17718

We may monitor and record your phone calls with us in order to maintain and improve our service. The £35 cash gift/BT EasyReach Pager offer applies to first year undergraduates who submit an application for a Student Account at any branch of National Westminster Bank Plc by 30 November 1998. This cash gift will not be credited into the account until we have seen proof of student status, identification and a valid cheque/parental contribution. The £15 bonus only applies to students who qualify for the Student Banking Service. Students can only receive either a cash gift or a BT EasyReach Pager not a combination of the two. \*The maximum interest-free amount is £1,000 for year one, £1,500 in year 2 and £2,000 in year 3 and beyond. \*OEAP. Credit is only available to persons who are 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions. Written quotations are available on request from National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BP or from any branch. Overdrafts are repayable on demand.

## GRANT YOURSELF SOME PEACE OF MIND

IN RECENT years overdrafts have been the common theme of the banks' student packages. As state funding for students has decreased, the credit facilities available for those undertaking degree courses have increased.

In the Seventies, when the parents of this year's intake were studying, everyone undertaking a course of higher education received a grant for their living expenses from their Local Education Authority (LEA). Admittedly, the offspring of wealthy parents received only a token £50 a year, but the level of grants for those on average incomes was reasonably adequate, so that their parents were expected to contribute only an affordable amount.

Since 1990, the level of grants has been steadily eroded. The sum payable to those starting a course this year has been dramatically slashed by 80 per cent.

As of this year, not bad enough, those starting a course next year will receive nothing at all. The expense will come as a shock for many parents.

As in the past, the grants are means-tested on the students' parental income. The calculations

are based on the residual income, which is basically the gross income from all sources, less any payments which qualify for tax relief, such as pension contributions, some mortgage interest, and payments into life policies taken out before 11 March 1984.

It is only the offspring of parents whose residual income is below

*The level of grants has been eroded, and those starting a course next year will get nothing*

£16,945 who will receive a full grant. Those with a residual income above this amount will be expected to contribute to their son or daughter's expenses on a sliding scale, with a reduction of £75 for every other dependent child. As a rule of thumb, those with a residual income of around £35,000 or more who have a student undertaking a course will receive nothing.

For parents who are employees, the calculations are based on their income in the financial year preceding the start of the course – the 1997/98 tax year for courses starting this autumn.

For self-employed parents, the LEA may, with agreement, base its assessment on the income in the trading year ending in the last financial year before the start of the course. Where parents are divorced, the assessment is generally made on the income of the parent with whom the student lives.

Those who have not already applied for a grant should contact their LEA as soon as possible to make the arrangements.

**Maximum grants for the academic year 1998/99 in England and Wales are:** London, £1,225; elsewhere, £810; Parental Home (any location), £480. **The figures are based on an academic year of 30 weeks and three days, and 25 weeks and three days at Oxford and Cambridge. Extra weekly payments are made for additional weeks of study – London, £82.20; elsewhere, £61.60; and those living at the parental home, £43.15.**

## AND GET THAT STUDENT LOAN SORTED

TO COMPENSATE for the decrease in student grants, student loans have been increased. Unlike grants, loans are not means-tested. Further good news is that they are interest-free. However, the bad news is that the sum to be repaid increases at the rate of inflation.

Students can apply for a loan only when they start their course of study. Application forms are available from universities or colleges. Assessing an individual's eligibility for a loan is the responsibility of the academic institution where the student is undertaking the course.

The application procedures are rigid and, to save time, students should have certain information available when they begin their course. Applicants born in the UK will require their original birth or adoption certificate. An award letter from the student's LEA will speed up the process. As the loan is paid direct to a bank or building society account, its number and the sort code of the branch has to be stated. Finally, the applicant has to give his or her

national insurance number. If this is unknown, the Contributions Agency will be able to assist.

Only one application is allowed each academic year. Therefore, it is advisable to apply for the full amount for as long as the maximum is requested, it is not possible to apply

*The application rules are rigid and students should have important information to hand*

for the shortfall at a later date. Students may choose to receive their loan as a single sum during the first term, or in three equal instalments, one made each term.

Repayment of loans does not begin until the course has been completed. The monthly instalments depend on income. If this is below a

certain threshold – currently £10,000 a year – no repayments have to be made. The threshold will be reviewed each year in the light of average earnings.

When the income exceeds the threshold, 9 per cent of the excess must be paid to reduce the outstanding loan. With the present £10,000 threshold, this means the monthly repayment will be 9 per cent of any gross monthly income – about £833 (£10,000 divided by 12). Therefore, graduates earning £12,000 a year will pay £15 a month, and those with an annual salary of £18,000 will pay £60 a month.

The period of repayment depends on the amount borrowed and annual income. The repayments will be collected by the Inland Revenue.

**Maximum loans for the academic year 1998/99 are:** London, £3,145; Elsewhere, £2,735; Parental Home (any location), £2,325. The loans are 15 to 18 per cent lower in the final year of study.

JOHN ANDREW

0800 200 400



# Ensure you insure wisely

Competition is fierce  
in motor insurance  
but it may benefit  
the clever customer.

By Katherine Storey

THERE IS good news on the car insurance front – and bad news too. The good news is that premiums are being pegged at a low rate. The bad news is that motor insurance companies are desperate to hike up prices – though heavy competition means that, for the moment, they are unable to do so.

As Alex Lovesey, from Hill House Hammond, an insurance intermediary, says: "There is always talk (within the industry) that rates have got to harden. Reports have suggested that premiums need to increase by at least 10 per cent on motor policies. But statistics say that this is not really the case."

Miranda Seymour, from Direct Line Insurance, says: "Over the last two to three years, the market in motor insurance has become fiercely competitive." This ensures that companies cannot raise their rates for fear of being undercut by another company.

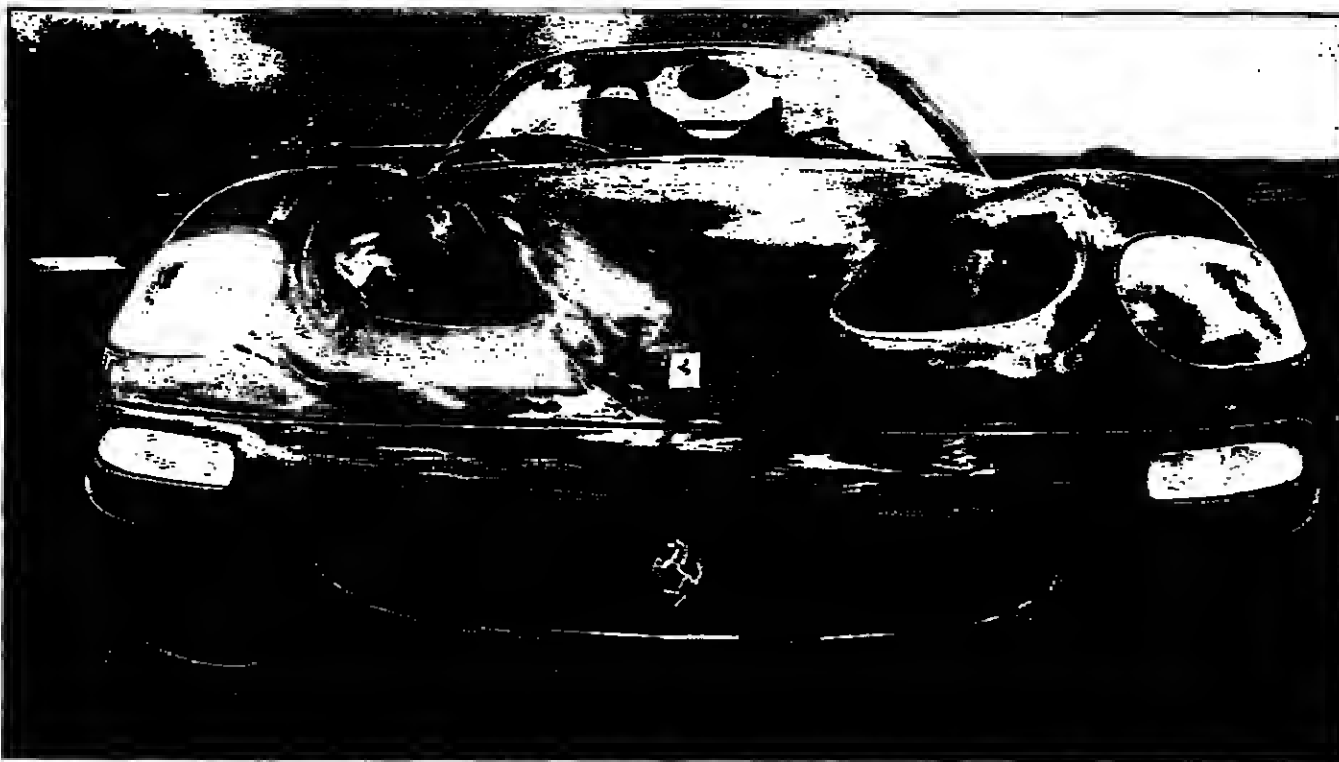
More potential good news for the consumer is that Barclays Bank has teamed up with Privilege Insurance, to enter the motor insurance market with an offer to undercut all its rivals' renewal premiums. Bob Dench, managing director of Barclays Insurance Services, says: "Banks are traditionally seen as quality insurers, but not at a competitive price. Barclays seeks to change this image." This guarantee will apply for the first 12 months' premiums.

Mr Dench adds: "The industry will have a dreadful time matching this product if it takes off, because if they try to take us down on price, that guarantee is there for next year."

However, Judith Price at Swinton Insurance, an insurance intermediary, warns: "Many in motor insurance would say that this is the road to ruin and it simply cannot be sustained. From my understanding of the Barclays offer, it is an opening offer – it is not an intention that they will always be the cheapest. We would say to any customer that went to them: 'We will see you next year!'"

As many motorists may have discovered, there is the danger that insurance companies will use discounted introductory offers to get customers on board, only for the customer to find that, the following year, their premiums have substantially increased. Alex Lovesey says: "This is something that we did see happen when direct insurers first started to come into prominence."

However, Bob Dench, at Barclays, replies: "We have not just done this to push up prices next year." However, before taking out insurance, it would seem that it is important to look past the attractive introductory package to what the renewal rate will be the next year.



No matter how high your current premium is, you may get a better deal by shopping around for quotes

Bob Dench adds that Barclays can make its offer by saving on advertising costs. The bank already has a large customer base, with 6 million customers and 7 million Barclaycard holders. These clients will be targeted first. Bob Dench says: "Competitors will spend, for example, £25m on advertising. If they attract 500,000 customers, each one will have to pay an extra £50 on their policy to pay for it."

Despite cut-price offers from direct insurers, such as Direct Line, Churchill, and now Barclays, many customers prefer the service they receive from insurance brokers and intermediaries. This is partly because brokers are able to shop around for the best deal, so the quotes they get often undercut those available from the direct insurers.

Brokers also offer face-to-face consultations, unlike direct insurers. Ms Lovesey, at Hill House Hammond, says: "We are able to offer a face-to-face [approach] in our 250 branches across the country, or a telephone service. However, our research has shown that 30 per cent of people, whether they want to go into a branch or not, like the fact that it is there. They can build up a personal relationship with the people, which may be especially welcome when they have a claim."

Although the motor insurance industry is price-driven, with the majority of customers most concerned about how much they will have to pay, there are other aspects to consider. Sue Winston, at Norwich Union Insurance, says: "The Barclays offer seems to be very much based on price competitiveness. The market is a large one, there is plenty of scope for people to offer a variety of different

	Direct Line	Norwich Union	Eagle Star	Swinton	Hill House Hammond	Barclays
21 year old male, London, 5 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.2i, 1 year no claims discount	£25.08 (£150)	£29.01 (£150)	£24.84 (£150)	£24.00 (£150)	£21.92 (£150)	£20.00 (£100)
35 year old female, Swinton, 1.8 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.2i, 5 years no claims discount	£25.28 (£250)	£29.01 (£250)	£24.84 (£250)	£24.00 (£250)	£21.92 (£250)	£20.00 (£100)
45 year old male, Leeds, 1.8 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.2i, 5 years no claims discount	£25.28 (£250)	£29.01 (£250)	£24.84 (£250)	£24.00 (£250)	£21.92 (£250)	£20.00 (£100)
65 year old male, Bournemouth, 1.6 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.2i, 1.6 yr. Full no claims discount	£25.28 (£250)	£29.01 (£250)	£24.84 (£250)	£24.00 (£250)	£21.92 (£250)	£20.00 (£100)

customer propositions. Our customer proposition is very much based on the quality of service and the add-on benefits we provide." Bob Dench, however, says that Barclays has taken the best aspects of the other insurance companies' benefits packages and put them together, to deliver cover that is "as good as the best and better than the rest". Irrespective of the reassuring words of

## A legacy to pay for school fees

THE FIXERS



JAMES BRUCE

*A windfall is tax-efficient in funding a child's education*

FOLLOWING AN unexpected inheritance of £50,000, Colin and Margaret sought my advice as to investment.

The starting-point was to identify their objectives. Colin and Margaret explained that they wish to use the funds for their 10-year-old daughter Laura's private education.

Laura's current school fees are £3,000 a year which to date have been paid for out of earned income. Both Colin and Margaret are higher-rate taxpayers so this is not tax-efficient, but until now it has been the only method open to them. It was decided to stop funding from income and, instead, use the £50,000 capital.

The next step was to consider the levels of acceptable investment risk, bearing in mind the time scale. In the case of Colin and Margaret, there is an ongoing liability of at least £3,000 a year until Laura reaches age 16, at the earliest. They decided to split the funds available.

So £16,000 was set aside to finance the anticipated cost of fees for the next two years. This sum was deposited in a postal account offering a competitive rate of interest. The interest earned will be liable to tax at 40 per cent, but the capital is protected from short-term fluctuations in its value.

The investment period for the balance of the funds ranged from the third academic year onwards. This is still a relatively short time scale, so it is important not to take unnecessary risks.

I therefore recommended that Colin and Margaret make full use of their general PEP allowances of £6,000 each. Colin had previously invested in a share-based unit trust PEP. I explained that because of the relatively short-term investment period envisaged, a further share-based PEP would not be appropriate.

Instead, I recommended they each invested in corporate-bond-based unit trust PEPs. Corporate bonds are loans made by investors to companies, for a specified term. In general, the investor receives an annual fixed dividend, with capital being returned on the redemption date. They are generally seen as lower-risk than equity-based PEPs, but the capital is not guaranteed in the same way as a cash deposit. I recommended that the relatively high income be reinvested, to increase the value of their capital.

With the rest of the funds, Colin and Margaret chose a portfolio of zero-dividend preference shares of split capital investment trusts ("zeros"), which offer a combination of low-risk and tax-efficient returns. A split capital investment trust invests in shares and securities of other companies. It has, however, two classes of shares, as well as a predetermined life span. When it reaches the end of its life, the zero shares have priority call on the underlying assets of the investment trust.

Zeros provide for investment purely in the form of capital growth. So any increase in value can be set against Colin and Margaret's annual capital gains tax allowances. Everyone has this useful allowance, but few understand and make use of it. The CGT allowance is set at £5,000 for the 1998/99 tax year. This combined portfolio will finance Laura's education in a tax-efficient manner. As for the £3,000 a year Colin and Margaret will save, they have decided to use them to fund early retirement – but that's another story.

James Bruce is a senior financial planner at the fee-based independent advisers Corporate and Personal Planning, Highwoods Square, Highwoods, Colchester, Essex CO4 4BB (01206 833888)

## Someone you can bank on in times of trouble

In the first of a series on how customers can make effective complaints, John Andrew looks at the sterling work of the Banking Ombudsman

KNOWING WHO to complain to is an important component of understanding the often-confusing world of financial services.

For many, the relationship they have with their bank is the most important – certainly the longest-lasting – of all the institutions they will deal with in the course of their lives. But what happens if things go sour between you and the bank manager?

Established in 1986, the Banking Ombudsman's office is the place to go. The Ombudsman is David Thomas, a former solicitor who has worked in many legal fields. His office employs a staff of more than 40, many of whom are lawyers, to deal with customers' complaints.

The service, which is provided free to complainants, is funded by 111 banks which are members of the scheme. Its annual operational budget is just under £2.6m.

Despite being funded by the industry, the Ombudsman and his staff fiercely defend their independence and impartiality. During the year to 30 September 1997, marginally more decisions were in favour of customers than banks.

The office can deal with complaints from individuals, sole traders, partnerships, unincorporated bodies such as members' clubs, and companies with an annual turnover of less than £1m. More than 80 per cent of complaints are from personal customers.

contains useful tips for customers to follow and emphasises the need to keep copies of correspondence and notes of conversations.

Normally, banks first require complaints to be made at branch level. If unresolved, they are then referred to a regional office and then to head office. Customers who are not

satisfied with the response they receive may then refer the matter to the Ombudsman. However, a "deadlock" letter from the bank, confirming that they have reached the end of its procedures is required. Should a bank delay providing this, the Ombudsman's office can help. Customers are allowed six

months from the issue of a deadlock letter to complain to the Ombudsman. Upon receipt of a complaint form, the office tries to resolve the issue quickly by conciliation. This may involve either party's attention to relevant factors. Normally this process takes two to three weeks.

If conciliation does not resolve the matter, the complaint is subjected to an investigation, which could take some months and involve all parties in a considerable amount of effort.

In the five years up to 30 September 1997, the Ombudsman's office received 8,816 complaints, of which 2,388 could not be dealt with, as they either should have been referred elsewhere, or fell outside the scheme. Of the 6,430 valid ones, 674 went to investigation. In a third of these cases, either the bank or the customer asked for the decision to be reviewed.

While the banks have to accept the Ombudsman's decision, customers do not, and may choose to resort to the courts. Compensation recently awarded under the scheme ranged from £21 to £90,000, the average being £2,805. In 75.3 per cent of cases, the Ombudsman awarded more than was previously offered by the banks.

The top five areas of complaint are: lending (16.6 per cent); mortgages (14.1 per cent); charges and interest (8.5 per cent); account errors (6.5 per cent) and discounts or delay (5.4 per cent).

The Office of the Banking Ombudsman may be contacted on 0171-409-9944, or by writing to 70 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8NB

### WHAT YOU CAN COMPLAIN ABOUT...

Customers may complain to the banking

- Ombudsman about about:
- Banking services (including mortgages)
- Credit card services
- Executor and trustee services
- Advice and services relating to taxation, insurance and certain investments

The services must have been provided in or from the UK, but include transactions abroad using cards issued in the UK. Unless there has been maladministration or unfair treatment, the office cannot deal with complaints about a bank's:

- Commercial judgement relating to lending or security
- Decision in exercising a discretion under a will or trust, including its failure to consult beneficiaries unless required to do so

### ...AND WHAT YOU CAN'T

Complaints cannot be handled:

- About a bank's general interest rate policies
- About general bank policies and practices
- Where the claim, including any possible related claim, could exceed £100,000
- In situations where a court is involved – unless the bank agrees

The office will also not deal with a complaint where the customer has suffered no loss or inconvenience, and in situations where it believes the bank has already offered adequate compensation. General advice is not given about banking, financial matters or debt problems.

## The future's not guaranteed. But our Safety Price is.

The UK stockmarket continues to hit new highs – but what about the future? With the Scottish Widows SafetyPlus PEP, your money is protected from any major setbacks.

SAFETY PRICE OF 27.1p GUARANTEED until 19 March 1999

As well as giving unlimited growth potential, it offers a reassuring Safety Price\* for units, which is guaranteed until March 1999. So while the value of your investment can rise, it cannot fall below the guaranteed level. When performance is strong, we can lock in growth (normally for 12 months) by raising the Safety Price – giving an increased level of protection.

With only one PEP allowance remaining before April 1999, and markets as they are, this could be an ideal PEP investment. And it's just as suitable for existing PEP investors wishing to consolidate growth without losing their tax-free benefits.

So for a more confident future from a name you can trust, call us now for your free, no-obligation application pack.

To find out more call  
**0345 6789 10**  
and quote reference 367DA2

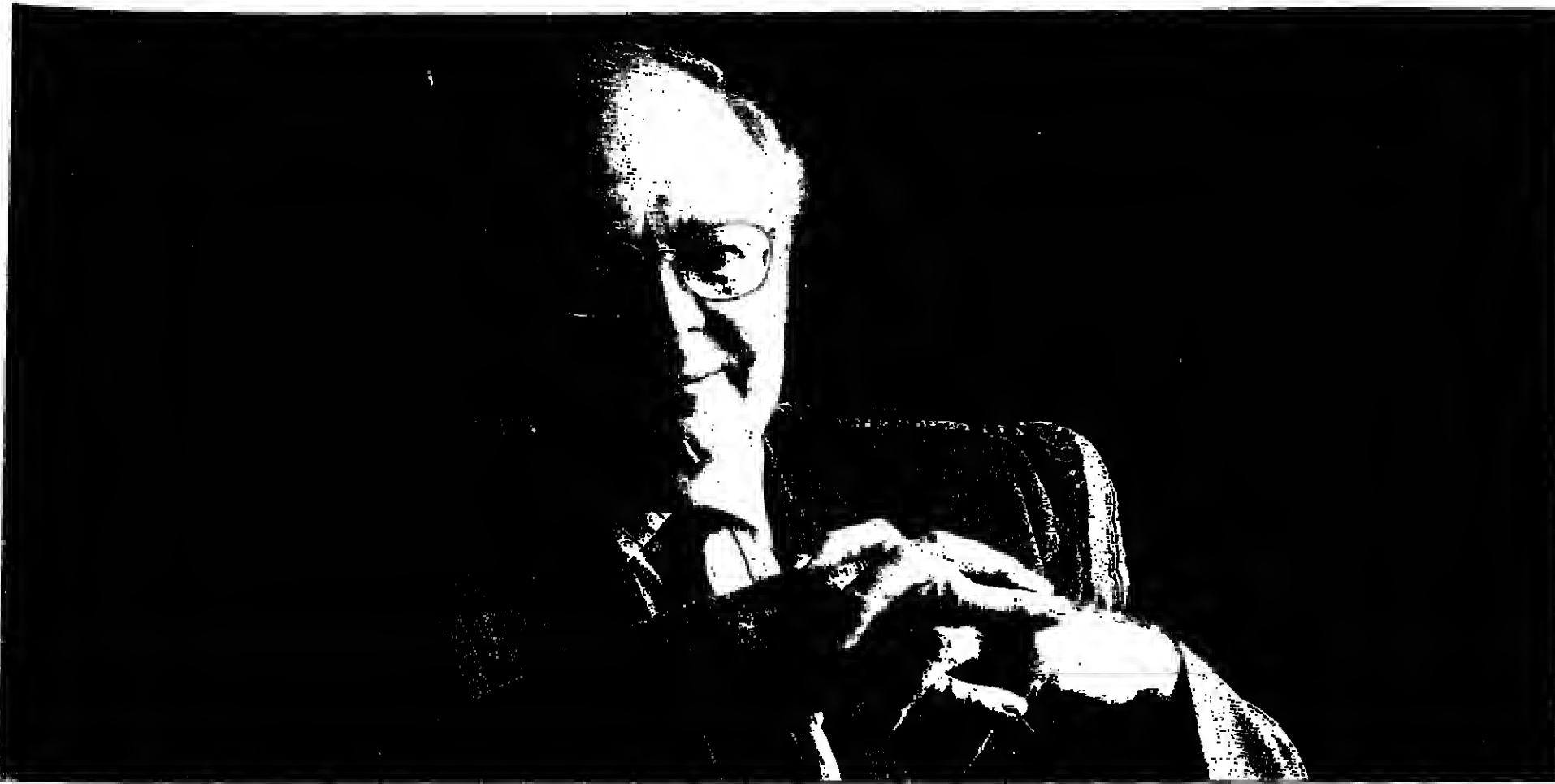


SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Looking good for PEPs

\*The current minimum selling price of units. The techniques we use to provide the Safety Price incur a cost. The effect of this cost is that, in the long term, growth is likely to be lower than would be achieved without the protection of the Safety Price. The availability of appropriate investment may restrict our ability to provide a new Safety Price. The Safety Price for the UK Sheltered Growth Trust in which the SafetyPlus PEPs are invested is guaranteed currently by a major financial institution and is dependent on this third party meeting its obligations. The value of units in our UK Sheltered Growth Trust may change on a daily basis and may fall as well as rise. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory changes and the value of the tax advantages of a PEP will depend on personal circumstances. For your protection your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored. Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSC.





Peter Layhe of Cima, one of the three accountancy institutes involved in a possible merger whose increasing individual status is making it question such a move. *Rui Xavier*

## Accountants divided over the maths and motives of merger

The proposed merger of half the six accountancy institutes is turning into a bitter war of words. By Paul Gosling

Accountancy usually appears a profession for polite and reserved characters. But the row in the profession over proposals to merge three of its six institutes demonstrates all the politeness of a Chicago mobsters' shoot-out. Representatives of the institutes can barely contain their anger, even a month after the ideas came forward from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (Acca). The dispute arose mainly, but not wholly, because Acca made its proposal directly to the members of two other bodies, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Cima) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (Cipfa). By cutting out the general councils of the other bodies, Acca made a pretty strong hint that it thought the councils were unrepresentative of their members, which was unlikely to win the councils' co-operation. Michael Foulds, Acca's president, put a different gloss on its tactics, saying the failure of previous merger proposals showed the need to sound out the institutes' members before detailed negotiations began. "The experience of previous initiatives has been of councils' working parties spending days, weeks

and months negotiating over detail, which is wheeled out to the members, who then said no," he explained when launching the proposal. "We wanted to do this differently, to get a sense of the members' views, before we bury ourselves in the detailed debate." Acca mailed members of all three institutes asking for reactions. In going direct to members without the support of the other bodies, while telling journalists the move was being undertaken with the co-operation of the other institutes, Acca did nothing to build goodwill. Cima, whose president is Peter Layhe, and Cipfa were given just an hour's notice of Acca's move. Michael Foulds is now personally in the firing line, facing a members' revolt for authorising £500,000 expenditure to promote the merger. One outsider said that Foulds had an inflated view of his own capabilities, believing himself to be a deal-maker, while really being a partner of a small firm now operating out of his depth. It is noticeable that Acca's chief executive, Anthea Rose, is distancing herself from the political fall-out.

A view gaining support inside the other institutes is that Acca is not sincere in proposing the merger, just cynically improving its public profile to increase its student intake. There is even speculation that Acca's move could drive Cima and Cipfa into their own merger without Acca. Yet Acca's proposal could still form the basis of a new body. Both Cima and Cipfa have been spurred into their own membership consultations. David Adams, chief executive of Cipfa, says: "I expect our members' response will be that merger is a good idea, but that Acca on its own is not as attractive an option as Acca plus somebody else. Members are saying that rationalisation is a good thing, and don't be too far-faced about Acca's behaviour, even if you don't like the way they have behaved." With just 13,000 members, Cipfa is under the greatest pressure to support rationalisation. It carried out a major slimming-down operation two years ago to improve its economic performance, but its education and training division is not meeting its student targets.

Delivering Cima into a merger, now, would be much more difficult. It is a growing institute, whose qualification is seen as increasingly relevant. There is even a feeling within Cima that other institutes should be joining it, whereas Acca's proposal is essentially a takeover. But despite tetchy open correspondence with Acca in recent weeks, Cima says it does want to formally meet with Acca to discuss rationalisation. Acca's finance director, Ross Midgley, says that Cima has misunderstood Acca's proposal, which is open for amendment. "We have to get people around the table. There is a substantial will out there for re-structuring." For all the criticism of Acca's tactics, Mr Midgley is unrepentant. "We would not have been sitting around the table with a chance of success unless we did what we did," he suggests. "Clearly there have been some ruffled feathers. We are still confident it is achievable. The strong reaction is regrettable, but it was a necessary step. It is about members, and not about council members and their self-interest."

The implication that resistance to Acca's proposals has stemmed from the wish of other institutes' council members to protect their perks and status will do nothing to smooth ruffled feathers, even if it strikes a chord with ordinary members. But it looks at the moment as if the three institutes are going to spend some time, as befis accountants, in arguing about figures. Acca claims that 63 per cent of Cima members in Acca's ballot want a merger, along with 81 per cent of Cipfa's and 77 per cent of Acca's members. Cima's own ballot, though, found that 86 per cent of its members rejected the merger proposal. Cipfa's consultation takes place next month, but with only about 17 per cent of members of the three bodies responding to Acca's inquiry, there are serious doubts about its legitimacy. Another weak link in the proposal is Acca's refusal to involve the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) in merger discussions. It is likely, though, that having had merger proposals heavily rejected by its membership in the past, the ICAEW believes that members are strongly set against any merger. Certainly, it seems unimpressed at being left out. Its spokeswoman said: "We are keeping our heads above all that."

### IN BRIEF

## Just what the doctors ordered

LLOYDS TSB is developing what it calls a "new breed" of bank manager to get closer to specialist small and medium-sized businesses. It is setting up managers to look after what it believes are the unique business needs of vets, pharmacists, doctors, dentists, accountants and solicitors. The move follows customer research revealing that members of these groups felt their banking advisers needed special knowledge of their sectors.

THE INSTITUTE of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales is collaborating with four business schools to launch a management programme aimed at senior finance executives. The initiative, effective from next month, involves Manchester and Cardiff business schools, Bristol University's graduate school of international business and Newcastle school of management. The programme, for finance directors, offers a practical focus on the key financial and non-financial functions of the finance department.

EMPLOYEES ARE being warned of the growing trend for companies to respond to resignations with counter-offers. Counter-offers, amounting to as much as 10 to 15 per cent of salary, may seem an attractive incentive to stay, but they are often in reality "career suicide", says a leading financial recruitment consultant. Jeff Groat, managing director of Robert Half International, believes the practice benefits only employers who see it as a short-term solution to staffing shortages. They are simply "buying time" to replace a member of staff who will have been tagged as disloyal or lacking commitment and will be replaced when it suits the employer, he says.

SETTING INTERNATIONAL standards for public sector financial reporting is an ambitious project and needs support from governments and standard-setters if it is to gain acceptance, according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in its response to proposed guidelines issued by the public sector committee of the International Federation of Accountants. The institute's financial reporting committee welcomed the initiative, but warned that implementing a rigorous accruals-based regime was likely to be difficult and time-consuming.

ERNST & YOUNG has chosen D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles as its global advertising agency as part of its attempt to develop a global branding strategy. The firm, which estimates it will spend more than \$100m next year on advertising and branding, is to launch an ad campaign in the autumn.

RISKARE, THE derivatives-based risk management consultancy has developed a pricing methodology that, it claims, significantly speeds up measurement of trading, departmental and firm-wide risks. It says the methodology, called the Willow Tree, enables senior traders and risk managers to make such calculations in about a twentieth of the time currently allocated to them, and hence is able to make a significant impact on the working practices of risk management teams.

ROGER TRAPP

Want to make a fortune? Then start training to join the business elite. By Roger Trapp

## Make it your business to go for gold

DAVID LANDAU is hardly most people's idea of a typical entrepreneur. Softly spoken and retiring, he became a businessman only in his thirties after previously training as a doctor (to overcome his squeamishness about blood), and becoming a university lecturer to conquer his shyness.

And yet - as a result of founding he classified advertisement newspaper *Loot* - he is now the wealthy head of a company that employs about 600 people and has annual sales of more than £25m.

Despite a shaky start, when Landau and his colleagues were assured that the idea would not work, the company has grown strongly since it was founded in 1988, and enjoys the distinction of being the only organisation to have featured every year in the *Independent* on Sunday's list of Britain's fastest-growing private businesses.

The appearance of the *Loot* story, a new book on entrepreneurs by the management writer Robert Heller, is a clear demonstration of the fact that enterprise can come in all shapes and forms.

Heller points out in his book, *Goldfinger: How entrepreneurs row rich by starting small* (HarperCollinsBusiness, £19.99), that Landau and his co-founder, he then music critic Dominic Gill, were essentially copyists. The idea of publishing a small ads magazine had sold copies, but publishing the ads for free, came to Landau when he picked up what he thought was

a paper about antiques on a trip to Milan. But, as Heller writes: "Imitation may well be the sincerest way of making money," adding that Ray Kroc, for example, got the inspiration for what became a world-wide hamburger outlet chain by enjoying a meal at a place called McDonald's. The Italian city was also the inspiration for Howard Schultz, the founder of Starbucks, the US coffee house chain that recently bought up Britain's Seattle Coffee Company, itself an imitator of Starbucks.

But although it appears that Schultz created a business worth several hundred million dollars simply by adopting the espresso bars he had seen in Italy to US tastes, Heller stresses that that is not the whole story. Entrepreneurs have to have the foresight to spot trends and the courage to act on that information, as well as such attributes as an instinct for design and a sense of how much people will pay.

"The key is thinking - the ultimate management technique," he writes. Like any technique, this can be improved, which is why both established business owners, and those seeking to join them, pay a lot of attention to creative thinking.

And that leads on to the real purpose of the book. As well as aiming to remove much of the mystery surrounding entrepreneurs - or, as Heller terms them, "the heroes of capitalism" - it is designed to set out certain techniques for making a success of new businesses.

Convinced that it is "patently



David Landau has made 'Loot' a huge success. *Edward Webb*

untrue" that entrepreneurship cannot be taught, Heller writes that business may or may not be in the genes, but business know-how is in the teaching, training and experience. "At every stage - from the thinking that produces the Big Idea, through planning, to implementation and beyond - the entrepreneur can benefit from the example of others, people who have been there before. Their experience establishes clear precepts and practices, from which others can learn."

Even those entrepreneurs who defy categorisation and seem never to have needed a lesson can, in fact, be found to be following a pattern. "They act on logic and observation, as well as intuition, and their plans, decisions and execution are controlled by methods that can be understood - and imitated."

An additional motivation for Heller is the view, increasingly held in government circles, that small businesses are often the seeds of big ones. At the outset, he explains how he came upon the techniques embodied in his acronym IT

BECAME FAST by studying BTR, a business that came from nowhere to appear at the top of the *Management Today* growth league. That company has since run into trouble but, under the leadership of Sir Owen Green, it was a real powerhouse, becoming a £10bn company and an international name.

The techniques cover such issues as improving efficiency constantly, evaluating businesses and opportunities objectively, spreading authority around the organisation and ensuring that you make money because "if you don't, you can't do anything else". But, while keeping things as simple as possible is at the heart of much of his book, he also ventures into expansion and diversification - since these are usually prerequisites for growth.

Determined to inspire as well as explain, he concludes that successful entrepreneurs do not rest on their laurels. Rather, they exploit "superb presents to achieve a far more brilliant future" - so the best definition of entrepreneurs is that they make their futures themselves.

## Team trauma dampens Norman's conquest

BY FRIDAY evening I am running for the door.

My main concern is putting as much distance as possible between me and my colleagues. I don't want to see hide nor hair of them again until Monday morning, and not even then, especially if it means cutting short my recurrent dream about dinner with Ewan McGregor.

You can understand, then, my dismay when Norman announced at the end of Thursday's morning meeting that he was hosting a team barbecue lunch on Sunday, and he hoped we would all be able to attend.

Now, when your new boss tells you he hopes that you will be able to attend something, what he really means is that you will attend. After all, as it says in chapter three of whichever hot-off-the-press management theory book is on Norman's bedside table (no, I don't know why it's always chapter three, either), team building is crucial, and team events are the key whether the team likes it or not.

"I suppose we should be grateful that it's only a barbecue, and not one of those hideous survival weekends where you all get left on some sodden Scottish island with nothing but a tin of beans and a plastic bag and have to build a raft," I said to Laura as we left the office on Friday.

"Perhaps he hasn't read that bit yet," she replied. "Anyway, I'll see you on Sunday."

### THE TRADER



Sunday dawned like a typical British summer day: grey, cold and threatening to rain. I hauled myself out of bed, cursing God, Norman and anyone else I could think of, especially when I realised there wasn't even time for breakfast. We'd been told to arrive at noon, and I felt sure our new honcho wouldn't understand the concept of "fashionably late". So it was one quick black coffee, two painkillers for the hangover, and straight into the car for the drive to Norman's.

I arrived an hour late, having spent nearly two hours going round and round an ever-diminishing piece of Surrey looking for the right private drive off the right private road on the right private estate. When I found the place, I nearly cried with relief, though that could have been the lack of breakfast making me feel delicate.

Norman turned out to be less cross than expected. He just said something slightly pointed about being glad I could make it, poured me a

lemon barley water and disappeared into the garden. I spotted Laura, hiding in a corner with the papers, and headed her way. "What's up?" I asked her. "Surely Norman's not actually cooking out there? It's been chucking it down for the past hour."

Laura laughed wryly. Nothing, it turned out, could deflect our Norm from a plan once it had been created. "You see," she said, "he's not only dull, he's terribly conscientious. He went out specially yesterday to buy the barbecue, and now he's set up a little tent thing to keep it dry."

My curiosity roused, I stood up and gazed out of the window. Sure enough, there was Norm wreathed in smoke, standing under a vast piece of tarpaulin. A piece of tarpaulin vast enough, in fact, for the whole team to stand under. I turned to Laura, my heart sinking faster than the Tokyo stock market. "Surely he can't..."

Oh, but he could. No sooner was the chicken ready than we were all herded out of the lovely warm house to eat. No complaints about the food (a hit dull, perhaps), but being soaked from the neck down while we were eating it didn't add to the occasion. The only person who seemed happy was our host.

"Well," said Laura, "you could say it's been a success. It was, after all, about team unity, and we're certainly united in one thing now."

Yes, I thought, we all hate Norman.



## Project/Systems Accountant

City

£ Excellent

Our client is the investment banking division of a major global financial institution. It provides a full range of advisory services in debt and equity capital markets, mergers and acquisitions and trading of a wide range of financial instruments.

An opportunity has arisen for a Project/Systems Accountant to work within the Global Management Information Projects Group. The position will involve the development, project management and implementation of global management information initiatives. Interested candidates should possess extensive experience in the design and implementation of Essbase application solutions and

should have hands-on experience of global general ledger strategy development and implementation.

The successful candidate should be a graduate and qualified accountant, have at least 4-5 years post qualification experience and is likely to have a 'Big 5' background, together with significant investment banking experience.

Interested applicants should write, enclosing a full curriculum vitae, to David Leithead at Michael Page City, 50 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6JJ or telephone him on 0171 269 1847. Fax 0171 329 3426. e-mail: davidleithead@michaelpage.com or www.michaelpage.com

Michael Page

CITY

London • New York • Paris • Amsterdam • Frankfurt • Milan • Madrid • Hong Kong • Singapore • Sydney

### PEPPER POT CLUB

Post: Finance Officer  
Salary: £18,068 p.a. (inc. L.W.) 35 Hr/Week

Funded by the National Lottery Charities Board for three years.

The postholder will be responsible for carrying out all financial management activities, from bookkeeping to the preparation of annual accounts.

You will have a minimum qualification of AAT/Certificate stage of ACCA.

You will have the experience of operating both a manual and computerised accounting system, preferably Sage or Quickbooks.

In addition to your financial skills, you should be organised and methodical and be able to work as part of a project management team.

For an application pack, send a SAE to:

The Pepper Pot Club  
2nd Floor  
39/41 Acklam Road  
London W10 5YL

Closing date for completed applications is Wednesday 9th September 1998

The Pepper Pot Club, a Resource Centre for Afro-Caribbean elders in North Kensington, is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

The Pepper Pot Club is funded by The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

### INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK

requires an IT Director to manage the Information Technology requirements of the IT Division.

Responsibilities will include directing the design, development, and implementation of a new technology infrastructure; overseeing project testing and the evaluation of equipment and systems. The successful candidate will possess a Masters Level Education and have at least 5 years experience in a Global Corporate Information Technology Environment.

The salary on offer is commensurate with experience. If you possess the necessary skills, please send your CV to PO Box 21015 Islington, London N1 1WS.

### International Investment Bank

requires a

**CREDIT ANALYST**

Responsibilities will include credit risk and qualitative analysis, financial statement analysis and evaluation, debt capital determination, cash flow analysis and capital adequacy.

The successful candidate will possess a degree and have at least 3 years' directly relevant experience. The salary on offer is commensurate with experience. If you possess the necessary skills, please send your CV to:

PO Box 21015, Islington, London, N1 1WS

### MORRISON LIMITED

Duties include financial analysis of investment projects, preparation of business plans and presenting the interests of Russian companies in the West.

You must be an EEA national with Russian and UK degree level qualifications in finance/accounting, working experience of UK and Russian business/financial sectors, fluent in English and Russian and computer literate.

Salary £12,000 + accommodation allowance. Write with CV to Morrison Ltd, 10 College Hill, Shrewsbury ST1 1JZ by 26th September 1998.

Debt Capital Markets, CIS Region

## RELATIONSHIP OFFICER

Competitive salary and benefits • City

Our client, a major international investment bank, enjoys a successful track record in the emerging markets. In order to facilitate continuing growth, they are looking to recruit a Relationship Officer with day to day responsibility for coverage of the bank's Kazakh and other CIS related business, as well as providing cover for the Russian Banking Sector. Within this geographical area, further duties include helping with debt capital transactions, developing marketing materials, making presentations and negotiating with clients in Russian.

Such a challenge calls for an economics-related degree and at least two years' international banking experience with a Russian debt capital focus. This should involve broad transaction exposure including forfeiting, loan syndication and the Russian bond market, while a spell working for a leading Russian bank would be an additional advantage. Excellent presentation and relationship building skills with clients from the CIS and FSU are essential, so the ideal candidate will also be fluent in business Russian.

To apply, please send full career details, quoting reference 2227, to: The Response Management Team, Associates in Advertising (AIA), 5 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BH.

Applications will only be forwarded to this client. However, please indicate any organisation to which your details should not be sent.

aia

HR MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

## RESOURCE CENTRE MANAGER

Sir Frank Whittle Business Centre, Rugby

SO1/SO2 - £18,006 to £20,922 plus an essential car user allowance

The Resource Centre will be a purpose-built local access point for business support. Getting it up and running will be the job of the manager.

The objectives will be to provide a business information service, access to business support services and to introduce businesses to the benefits of using I.C.T. With on-line information systems and links to partner services it is the latest development at the Council's successful Sir Frank Whittle Business Centre.

This is an opportunity to shape a new facility and to make it work. The person we are looking for would have some experience in managing projects and of providing advice to businesses. They must have excellent interpersonal skills. The ability to set up and run I.C.T. systems will be essential.

Application forms and further information are available from the Personnel Unit, Department of Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy, PO Box 43 Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4EX. Tel (01926) 412458 (24 hour answerphone).

Closing date for applications 18th September 1998.

Interviews will be held in Rugby on 30th September 1998.



Warwickshire County Council

http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk

## INVESTMENT BANKING

### EXCEL VBA/FIXED INCOME

£40K-£50K + BONUS

Fixed Income Exotic Derivatives group of this Premier US Investment Bank seeks bright graduates with at least 12 months experience of Excel within a Front Office environment. You will join a small global team developing flexible pricing for new exotic products, supporting marketers and traders. A good maths related degree is essential as is the enthusiasm to deliver systems within strict timescales. A fabulous career move.

C++/SQL

£40K-£50K + BONUS

Leading Derivatives house seeks Developer with a minimum of two years C++/SQL expertise. As part of the Front Office money markets team, you will help price yield curves and build risk management systems. The successful candidate will have a strong academic background coupled with excellent communication skills and solid technical knowledge. Preference will be given to those with money markets experience. A first class opportunity.

BUSINESS ANALYST/PROJECT MANAGERS

£40K-£50K + BONUS

High calibre candidates with securities and/or money markets experience are required by this pre-eminent investment bank. Your role will include responsibility for strategic application roll out, business re-engineering and project management of external suppliers. There will be extensive user contact with the business as well as responsibility for delivery of mission critical systems. Bright, young and ambitious candidates are invited to apply.

### C++/MATHEMATICS

£40K-£50K + BONUS

Leading Wall Street player seeks Senior Developers with a strong C++/C/C++ background coupled with excellent mathematical skills. Working closely with the quantitative team you will build analytic libraries for the Exotic interest rate options desk. Candidates with exemplary academic qualifications only need apply.

C++/UNIX/FIXED INCOME

TO £45K

Elite applications development team for top flight bank seeks experienced C++ Developers to work on the development of a global trading system that will encompass risk management, trade input and pricing analytics. You will have a minimum of 1-3 years experience using C++ in a commercial environment as well as knowledge of financial products and a minimum of a 2.1 degree in computing or numerical subject. This is a high profile project allowing those within it ample opportunity for rapid career advancement.

VB/SQL SERVER

TO £50K + BONUS + BENS

Global markets player seeks Developers with at least 2 years professional development experience. Visual Basic and in-depth knowledge of SQL Server. Working for the Front Office money markets team you will be expected to have working knowledge of Futures, Options, Swaps and Bonds. Working with traders, you will have strong communication skills and strong analytical abilities. The ideal candidates will have a solid academic background with a minimum of a 2.1 computational or mathematically based degree.



The people the City turn to first.

Many of our clients also offer Contract opportunities requiring the above skills. APC are preferred suppliers to the top financial institutions. This is a selection of current opportunities in the City. We have many more. Our consultants have an in-depth understanding of the market and how it can work best for you, so please call Stephen Hamilton or Paul Wilson on 0171 293 2525 to discuss your options. Alternatively please send, by e-mail your CV to us at: APC Recruitment, 15-16 New Burlington St, London W1X 1PR. Fax 0171 297 5698. E-mail: info@apc.co.uk

Wanted.

Mathematicians who are tired of making up the numbers.

Are you getting the degree of job satisfaction you expected when you graduated? The responsibility?

The intellectual stimulation? The personal rewards? The buzz? Are you making a real contribution to society beyond paying tax? Teaching needs people who want to use their skills and experience to the full: people with academic ability, a flair for communication and the talent to inspire. In return, it gives what very few careers can: the chance to change hundreds of lives, a unique place in the mind of everyone you influence

and job satisfaction that doesn't stop when you retire. We are looking for qualified, motivated applicants with a Mathematics background. You'll be fully involved (and stretched) from the day you start.

No fees are payable for the Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE). If you think you have it in you to bring out the best in others, please visit our website at [www.teach.org.uk](http://www.teach.org.uk) or telephone us on 01245 454 454.

NO-ONE FORGETS A GOOD TEACHER.

For Teacher Training Agency Communication Centre, FREEPOST AN22053, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3ZJ, I would like to learn more about becoming a teacher. Please send me an information pack.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Status (e.g. Student/Employee/Unemployed/Retiree): \_\_\_\_\_ Special Teaching Interest (Primary/Secondary/Other): \_\_\_\_\_



Ashurst Morris Crisp, established 175 years ago, is a leading corporate, commercial and financial law firm.

The firm is looking to recruit lawyers with between 1 and 6 years post qualification experience in the following areas:

### Banking and International Finance

With a leading reputation for international structured finance, the Banking Department also specialises in trade finance, structured capital markets and distressed debt work.

### Corporate

The Corporate Department advised on more floatations in the last three years than any other firm in the UK. They are also London's leading LBO firm and have been involved in many major buy-outs in recent years.

### Energy

The Energy Group gives advice world-wide to a wide range of clients covering all aspects of the upstream and downstream oil and gas industries and the electricity industry.

### Projects

The Projects Group advises on all aspects of projects in industry sectors as diverse as power, mining and natural resources, telecommunications, roads, rail and water.

If you are interested in applying to the above departments please write to Stuart Walker, enclosing a CV, at Ashurst Morris Crisp, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2HA quoting ref XSWPER.

London • Brussels • Delhi • Frankfurt • Paris • Singapore • Tokyo  
Associated Offices: Milan • Rome • Vienna

### International Investment Bank

requires a Global Finance Officer. Responsibilities will include global firm-wide budgeting and analysis of staff-related expenditure. The successful candidate will possess a minimum degree level education, be a qualified accountant and have a minimum four years post degree experience within a 'Big Six' firm. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the skills and experience required for the post, please send your CV to:

PO Box 12015C, Islington, London N1 1WS

### International Investment Bank

requires a Project Accountant to work within the Financial Control Group. Responsibilities will include month and year end procedures, financial reporting, maintaining regulatory controls and general reconciliation work. The successful candidate will be a qualified accountant and possess a degree level education, together with a minimum two years relevant experience within an investment banking environment. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the skills and experience required for the post, please send your CV to:

PO Box 12015B, Islington, London N1 1WS

### Assistant Regional Finance Manager

West London - £40K+ Car and benefits

A world class International Company is seeking a qualified ACCA/CIMA individual with experience of controlling regional offices and European markets. Extensive use of Hyperion is required.

The ideal person will be 30 years plus and be in a position to travel extensively.

Please contact Chris Whipple 01784 456111

Parkside Accountancy.  
email: [chrisw@parksiderec.co.uk](mailto:chrisw@parksiderec.co.uk)

To advertise in this section please call David Hague on 0171 293 2691 or Gemma Jamieson on 0171 293 2312.



# The truth is out there – in your manager's X-file

The Data Protection Bill will help you find out what your boss really thinks of you. By Kate Hilpern

HAVE YOU ever wondered what your manager really wrote on your latest appraisal? Or what snide comments fill the margins of the time-keeping records which your employers keep? After all, the entire office knows punctuality isn't your forte. Well, you need wonder no more because, from 24 October, the implementation of the new Data Protection Bill means that you will be legally entitled to access virtually all personal files kept on you by your employers. What's more, if you think that anything in them is potentially damaging in even the slightest way, you can do something about it.

In fact, the 1984 Data Protection Act means that employees are already entitled to see certain computerised files held on them. But since this refers only to straightforward factual details, most of us don't bother taking a peek. It's the juicy stuff – the records kept in the form of paper documents – that we want to get our paws on.

And since the new Bill incorporates everything from performance reviews to annual appraisals – and

disciplinary records – we can now find out exactly what our bosses think of us.

"All employers need to start reviewing the content of their personnel files," warns Angela Edward, policy adviser for the Institute of Personnel and Development. "People accumulate information for all sorts of bizarre reasons. They will now be liable for them."

Sonya, a personnel manager who has worked at five different companies over the course of her career, knows this all too well. "I've known middle managers to scribble down even the vaguest suspicions of theft and sexual harassment on data that is kept in manual files. I remember one who used to make notes on how he thought certain members of staff could improve the way they dressed. 'Shows too much cleavage in my opinion. But business good so perhaps not clients' opinion'. If employees got to see stuff like that, all hell would break loose."

In cases of serious error, employers will find themselves

vulnerable to legal proceedings. Even those individuals who don't get as far as being employed may have rights: the bill gives people who are judged by automated evaluation processes (such as systems which scan CVs automatically and reject those failing to meet specific criteria) the right to be notified of the results – and, furthermore, to challenge them if they are unhappy.

But it's not only unsubstantiated opinion, stresses Angela Edward. "Employees will be able to scrutinise all records on details such as their age, address and history of previous employers. They will have the right to have them corrected, because they can affect career prospects."

According to Olga Aikin, senior partner at the employment law firm the Aikin-Driver Partnership, the new law means that employers will also have to ensure that individual records don't refer to anyone other than the employee in question. "If you and I are both given the same wage increase, it is not uncommon for only one document to be produced – a copy of which is put into



After October, your employers will have to reveal almost everything they have on file about you

each of our files. But in future, that will mean I can get information on you, and vice versa."

Although there will be a three-year transitional period before full access rights on existing files are established, Aikin believes that employers urgently need to address the nature of the information they routinely collate.

Autumn's bill will also introduce restrictions regarding the existence of records on the grounds of someone's race, sexuality, philosophical beliefs and trade union membership. "But I can't see that these details will be banned from being held altogether," says Angela Edward.

"The Government can't say that they are not allowed to be kept and also that these details need to be monitored in order to assess the effect of equal opportunity policies."

One of the major concerns about the legislation centres on potential loopholes. "Organisations could, for instance, argue that personal files are being used to negotiate pay or redundancy settlements and should therefore be kept secret. Alternatively, they could just keep the information that they don't want their staff to see in 'unstructured files', such as various desk drawers," says Edward. "Mind you, I see little point in doing this because, if they are by

chance found, the risk of being taken to court still applies."

Personnel manager Sonya claims that two of the organisations for which she worked required 24 hours' notice before computer files could be accessed. "If this policy is extended to manual files, it will give the personnel department a chance to remove anything vaguely dodgy before the member of staff gets their hands on it. I know that the new bill means employees will legally be allowed to demand to waive any prior notice – but because most employees don't like causing rifts, and because most employees won't even be aware of their rights, I suspect that this may

continue in many companies." It is unsurprising, therefore, that the Campaign for Freedom of Information has expressed concerns that absolute access to your personal documents may yet be some way off.

All experts nevertheless agree that certain exclusions will be necessary. "In sure employers will breathe a huge sigh of relief to discover that employees will not be permitted to see their employment references," says Olga Aikin.

Perhaps the most that can be expected of the new legislation is that it will encourage employers to reconsider the value of the records they keep on their employees.

## The perils of getting on too well with the boss

Turns out that Mr Torrens and I have a compatibility rating similar to the proverbial burning hangar. I'm still disconcerted by the dribbling, and have an almost pathological desire to whip off his specs and give them a good polishing (with a rag that could be thrown away afterwards), but he's a sweet old stick who laughs at your jokes even when they're not jokes and generally thinks you're a pretty good stick back, as long as you keep him regularly supplied with Nurofen and mixers.

The weird thing is that, when I got my first glimpse of him last week, I thought that he was a very badly deteriorated 50, so thorough has my education in

the destructive effects of the demon drink been, but when he started talking about going to school without shoes during the great depression, I realised that this wasn't the case. Mr Torrens is in fact a fantastically well-preserved eightysomething. Now I understand why they call it "pickled".

After my two weeks on hand with the Nurofen, popping out for mixers and telling people he's in a meeting, he has come to rely on me with childlike enthusiasm. Calls me "dear girl", buys me chocolates, that sort of thing. And the news that I have been hooked for only two weeks and that Mary, his regular secretary ("Who? Nevererodova. Oh,

yes...") is coming back from her holidays with a black and white "Carnavayer" going without a thank-you, girly," he says, though I assure him that I've been paid. "Tell you what, I'll buy you dinner on yer last night."

Which I why I find myself on a Friday night in "M'club", one of those wood-walled Mayfair rooms that has served brisquet to old codgers since the 19th century, with bread rolls, while Mr Torrens dribbles vegetable soup down his chin and smears his wine glass. "C'mon, girly, drink up," he says. "We're going to have a fine night," and starts to tell me about his time building oil fields in Iran. "Fine women," he says. "Fine women. Jewellery



THE TEMP

from head to foot. There used to be a club – now what was it called? Oh, yes – and we'd go there, have a gin or two – ha-ha-ha-ha-ha – (he wipes his chin) and dance the night away..."

His shank of lamb with baby onions arrives, and my grilled Dover sole, and a bottle of red is put on the table.

Mr Torrens fills my glass, fills his own, laughs again, takes a slurp and glazes over. I suddenly realise that, of course, far from having a harder head than me, the constant levels of alcohol in his system mean that it takes only a couple of glasses to tip him over. He falls silent, gazing fishily over my shoulder. I'm mortified amidst the polite murmur around us. I offer the pommes dauphinoise. "Arr, yes," he says. "good old spuds." Gazes on.

I scrape at my fish, which is actually rather good, and the

waiter tops up my glass. A thread of drool forms at the corner of Mr Torrens's mouth; he chews absently, and his upper plate seems unwilling to stick to his gums. Every now and then a word slips out: "rrr-jollygood"; "rrr-carrots"; "rrr-fuzzy-wuzzies". I have a fixed grin on my face and a powerful desire for oblivion.

The waiter clears our plates and I decline pudding, coffee and stickies. It turns out that all that has to be done about the bill is for Mr Torrens to scribble on a piece of paper for later, and somehow we end up at the front door. He drapes his arm over my shoulder, pinches my ear: "Yarra-goddin", he growls.

The cab driver takes one look and refuses to take him alone. "Sorry, love," he says. "I don't think I'll get him out at the other end." I get in. "Mr Torrens?" I say. "Where do you live?" "What?" he says. "rrr-goddin. Home." I'm not going to get an address out of him.

Eventually, I do the only thing I can, and ask the driver to take us back to the office. With his arm still draped over my shoulder, I haul him upstairs, unlock the front door with the key in his breast pocket and lead him into his office. Lie him down as gently as I can on the floor behind his desk, tuck him up under a fire blanket and, flushed with guilt, head for the hills.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

## APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

FAX: 0171 293 2505

### MOVE INTO TOP GEAR

Tip PAs with fluent French needed for Public Affairs Director and Sales and Marketing Director of international car company. Assisting in a variety of areas you will have the confidence and motivation to work independently while coordinating several tasks at once. Experience of dealing with the media or at Sales and Marketing is an advantage. Strong MS Office and secretarial skills are a must.

Stylish based co. offering 19-22K and benefits.

Call ROISIN FARRELL

0181 810 7839 Fax 0181 998 0388

### SECRETARIES/PA'S RECOGNISE YOUR WORTH? OUR CLIENTS DO!

We have been retained by Blue Chip Co's providing personnel in the world of:

OIL - MUSIC - LEGAL - HOTELS

Improve your career, income and benefits today.

Call us now on:

Tel: 0171 488 4318

Fax: 0171 481 8774

FIRST CHOICE RECRUITMENT

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY (Full-time, pro rata or possible Job Share)

• Presentable and articulate with 45+ typing and pc skills?

• Confident on the telephone, enthusiastic and committed?

• Organised, flexible and calm in a crisis?

• Can you fit seamlessly into a small multinational group HQ?

Send C.V. and contact telephone number or call Sue Baker

Multistar Container Transport Limited

Arts House, Northumberland Avenue WC2N 5NT

Tel: 0171 930 9992 Fax: 0171 930 2730

No agencies please

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Telecoms industry near Tower

Hill. Varied role in growing

company for person with good

communications skills and

initiative. £15,000 pa.

CV by fax: 0171 360 6054



### MASTERLOCK RECRUITMENT

13 years of excellence

MEDIA CO PA TO MD - £22,500

Super opportunity for a senior shorthand secretary to work in the hectic and pressured world of the Press. Corporate correspondence, deal with numerous telephone calls, diary management, etc. Shift: 9am-5pm, 4 days a week and min 2 years' secretarial experience.

INTERNATIONAL CO

PA TO VP - £22k + 5 wks hol + exc. bens, NEW POSITION

Energetic self-starter with proven organisational, admin and IT skills. Local immediate on-site. Ability and keen to learn other packages and create databases. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to deal with senior executives globally.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDIO SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST - £18,700

Front of house role acting as ambassador for the well established company. Welcoming clients and visitors, dealing with incoming calls and enquiries. General audio typing and secretarial work for two consultants.

Call Maria or Elizabeth for immediate interview

Tel: 0171 938 1718

WASLEY RECRUITMENT

Immediate Temporary PAYROLL Assignments

Payroll Officer... Financial Institution... £22.3 months...

Excellent. Working in a very busy payroll department, with 5 other administrators. Must have Bureau and Investment Banking experience. ADP Centreline, desirable but not essential. Excellent communication skills, confident as dealing with all level of staff on a daily basis. Good team player.

(Ref: 1164)

Payroll Assistant... Bureau... Middlesex... 3 months...

Strong experience in Payroll essential. Must be able to operate ADP system, good team player, dealing with Clients Payroll Managers. Position Tem to Perm.

We are currently registering all level of Payroll Personnel, available for TEMPORARY AND TEMP to PERM position, in London and Nationwide. Please send your CV or call our

Temp Controller now Tel: 0181 970 2150 Fax: 0181 900 9445.

The Payroll Partnership is pleased to announce our

sponsorship for National Payroll Week and look forward to

seeing you on our stand no. 2, OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF

NPW 98

The Payroll Partnership

Empire House, 1 Empire Way, Wembley,

Middlesex HA9 6EW (Agt)

MEDIA SECRETARY

£18,000-20,000

An experienced well organized Secretary is needed to work for the Media Division of the research Consultancy. The role will

involve completion of questionnaires and processing results into written reports. First class communication skills and excellent

knowledge of Word and Powerpoint 80wpm+.

Call Julie now for immediate interview. (Agt).

0171 480 7400



### ACCOUNTANTS

AAT Qualified with minimum 1 year's experience to work in Central London/City.

\* WP OPERATORS

with MS Word, Excel and Access.

Call Maria on 0171 329 2800

LOCAL AUTHORITY POSITIONS

(South East London)

\* SWITCHBOARD OPERATORS

Experienced in Wial SX2000 and large electronic switchboards.

\* FILING CLERKS

With experience of Administration work and references.

\* SECRETARY

Minimum 50 wpm, MS Word, Excel and Access.

\* COMMISSIONING OFFICERS

Social work skills needed. Create policy and strategy reports. Pro-active, forward thinking and a methodical approach. Contract and policy making experience essential. Dealing with tenders. Good communication skills and degree qualified.

For further information call Catherine/Andrea

on 0171 403 9287

PF AGY

SW17 SOLICITORS

Offers training (with pay) to office manager/holiday executive.

Full/part-time/Holiday work available.

Send self-addressed envelope to:

R.O. Box 12811, The Independent Newspapers,

7-9 Bathhouse Street, London W1P 1AF

HR & PERSONNEL

Customer Care, Human Resources Administration, Staffing, CSR. An

extremely well presented and professional HR specialist is sought for the very varied and

diversified role which encompasses the full HR function. You will be an

excellent communicator, able to work on your feet, with excellent IT skills

including CO, Personnel Administration, Salary, CSR. A fantastic opportunity

exists for a personal Consultant with at least 10 years' experience. You will be an

excellent communicator, able to work on your feet, with excellent IT skills

including CO, Personnel Administration, Salary, CSR. A fantastic opportunity

exists for a personal Consultant with at least 10 years' experience. You will be an

excellent communicator, able to work on your feet, with excellent IT skills

including CO, Personnel Administration, Salary, CSR. A fantastic opportunity

exists for a personal Consultant with at least 10 years' experience. You will be an

excellent communicator, able to work on your feet, with excellent IT skills

including CO, Personnel Administration, Salary, CSR. A fantastic opportunity

exists for a personal Consultant with at least 10 years' experience. You will be an

excellent communicator, able to work on your feet, with excellent IT skills

including CO, Personnel Administration, Salary, CSR. A fantastic opportunity

exists for a personal Consultant with at least 10 years' experience. You will be an

excellent communicator, able to work on your feet, with excellent IT skills

including CO, Personnel Administration, Salary, CSR. A fantastic opportunity

exists for a personal Consultant with at least 10 years' experience. You will be an

excellent communicator, able to work on your feet, with excellent IT skills

including CO, Personnel Administration, Salary, CSR. A fantastic opportunity

exists for a personal Consultant with at least 10 years' experience. You will be an

### Advertising, Publishing, Television, Design, Music, PR, Arts, Marketing, Broadcasting, Entertainment

### Career Moves

PA to MD

For PA positions, both to MDs of large newspaper companies

must have at least 50/60 shorthand/typing. Top class

candidates with excellent experience of very senior levels in

similar industries. Ref: CP/24/8/1901

PA TO CHAIRMAN & MD

£22k pro rata

Majority worked from September-March, supporting

going along sufficient issues. Booking tempo, supervising junior

secretaries, organising diaries and travel, client liaison. Good

telephone manner and PC skills essential. Senior level

experience preferred. Ref: CP/24/8/1902

PA TO PRESIDENT

£22k

Charming French boss heading up the theatrical division of TV

and Film Distribution company. They are looking for proven

skills and experience at senior level and knowledge of the

industry. Longterm would be an advantage. Ref: CP/24/8/1903

PA TO MD

£22k pro rata

Proactive, well known PR corp. Must be flexible to

accommodate fast to turn - advantage PPT plus supervisory

skills, loads of energy and stamina to cope with fast pace and

demanding work environment. Ref: CP/24/8/1904

LEGAL SECRETARY

£19k+ fab bens

For large newspaper group. Working on 1.1 with top lawyers,

must have 90 wpm shorthand min and excellent typing (loud).

Reliable, mature and able to deal with huge amounts of

paperwork in highly confidential environment. Ref: CP/24/8/1905

For these positions and more, please call, or fax/send

your CV, quoting the relevant ref. no. If you have not

heard from us within 2 weeks, please assume your

application has not been successful.

Tel: 0171 292 2900 Fax: 0171 434 0297

Subsided House, 54 Argyl Street, London W1V 1AD

### Chase Mouloude

7 PAYROLL TEMPS

URGENTLY REQUIRED

immediate start for long and short-term payroll

contracts in London and Home Counties.

Paying up to £12ph

Minimum 1 year's payroll experience is essential.

Please call Melanie

Tel: 0171 403 4488

90 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TH

Fax CVS: 0171 357 6969

E-mail: chase.mouloude@compuserve.com

Expanding West End Chartered Accountants

(3 Partners) seek self-motivated